

Teaching below par in Islamic countries

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Teaching and educational standards are below par in Islamic countries, the head of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) said here Sunday. Abdul Azziz Tuwaijri, a Saudi, told representatives from 41 Muslim countries that "in more than two-thirds of Islamic countries, less than half of adults are literate." Mr. Tuwaijri was opening the organisation's fifth general congress being held in the Syrian capital. "The rate of investment for development in Arab and Islamic countries is below two per cent of the gross national product," Mr. Tuwaijri said. There was an "urgent need" to boost education in Islamic countries, he said. ISESCO is part of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), whose Secretary General Hamed Alghabid attended the opening session of the four-day congress here. Delegates at the forum are to draw up a plan of action for the next three years and discuss the organisation's budget of \$39 million over the same period.

Volume 19 Number 5779

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة نصها تحت إشراف جمعية الصحافة في الأردن - الرأي

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 24, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Qatar boycotts Gulf meeting

RIYADH (AFP) — Qatar on Sunday boycotted a meeting of Gulf interior ministers to protest alleged Saudi Arabian attacks on its shipping in a disputed border region, officials said. Doha had warned of a boycott after complaining about "five attacks in the last two years when the Saudi coast guard had opened fire, arrested and detained Qatari sailors at Khor Al Aida," a Gulf official said. Khor Al Aida is a waterway to the Gulf in a border region disputed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Qatar had vowed to stay away from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting aimed at developing common security if Riyadh failed to answer questions in a protest letter about the attacks, the official added on condition of anonymity. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz expressed "regret" over Qatar's absence from the GCC meeting but refused to comment on the reasons given by Doha for its decision.

Israel asks EU not to end arms embargo on Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has asked the European Union (EU) to reconsider its expected decision to lift an embargo on arms sales to Syria, an Israeli official said on Sunday. "There is still a Syrian embargo on a peace agreement (with Israel) and on direct peace negotiations, so lifting the European weapons embargo... is a diplomatic mistake," Uri Savir, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, said on Israel Radio.

'Iraqi Baath party official killed'

NICOSIA (AFP) — A ruling Baath Party official in southern Iraq was kidnapped and killed recently, an Iraqi opposition radio said Sunday. Lafta Uweid, secretary of the party section in Basra, 550 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, was kidnapped in the city centre with his bodyguards on Nov. 15, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) said. Uweid's corpse was found on Nov. 18 on the road linking Basra to Amara, 240 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, according to the statement monitored in Cyprus. The radio did not say what happened to Uweid's bodyguards. It said they were travelling in four cars when they were kidnapped.

Afghan rivals agree to Tehran talks

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Rival Afghan factions have agreed to attend talks in Tehran from Tuesday to try to end fighting in their war-ravaged country. Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Afghan sources said on Sunday. Spokesmen for the coalitions backing President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his opponents told Reuters in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar their delegations would go to the OIC-sponsored talks.

GATT passage almost certain — Bentzen

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen predicted Sunday the U.S. Congress would approve the GATT trade agreement this week but admitted the administration was still working to secure lawmakers' support for the pact. "I think we're going to win it," Mr. Bentsen said in a television interview. He admitted that a number of senators had not yet committed themselves to vote for ratification of the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), but attributed their hesitation to procedural issues. Passage of GATT is "not wrapped up. I think we still have our work to do," the treasury secretary acknowledged.

Settler killed in W. Bank; Israelis weigh options for army redeployment

MOUNT HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A rabbi was killed and an Israeli policeman wounded near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Sunday in an attack which Israel blamed on Islamic militants.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters in southern Israel: "I have no doubt the radical Islamic element, Hamas or Islamic Jihad, carried it out."

Military sources said a car driven by Rabbi Ami Uliam, 33, head of a religious seminary in the settlement of Otniel, overturned after it was fired on.

It was not clear whether Uliam, found dead in the vehicle, had been killed by the gunfire or the crash. The policeman, a passenger in the car, suffered gunshot wounds.

Settlers said unidentified men fired AK-47 rifles at the car which was headed for the settlement in the southern West Bank around midday.

Israel radio said the military arm of the Muslim Hamas group, main opponent of the Israeli-Palestinian Organisation (PLO) peace deal, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to the radio.

Government ministers quoted army chief Ehud Barak as having told a weekly meeting of the cabinet that guerrilla attacks on Israelis were expected to increase.

Settler leaders charged that authorities had done nothing to bolster security in the area since two Israelis were killed in a guerrilla attack earlier this year about one kilometre from the site of Sunday's incident.

The policeman returned fire at the attackers, the settlers said. A doctor at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital said he was in good condition, grazed by two bullets.

Soldiers and secret police launched a massive manhunt for the attackers and detained a number of Arabs for questioning.

There were several bullet holes in the car, which lay upside down, its top crushed.

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Anani clarifies remarks, affirms Jordan committed to Arab rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Jawad Anani said Sunday statements attributed to him by some local and Arab newspapers were inaccurate.

The remarks, he said, which he made at a meeting with the press on Saturday, fall within the context of analysing the various scenarios of the situation in the Middle East in light of the peace process and its impact on Jordan and its relations with other Arab countries.

An Arabic daily newspaper on Saturday quoted Dr. Anani as saying that Jordan's early signing of a peace treaty with Israel preempted a greater regional role for Syria over Jordan, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said Sunday his dialogue with newspaper reporters was aimed at briefing them on the various alternatives irrespective of their source or credibility.

Dr. Anan said Jordan believes in a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problems, adding that it has always sought to bolster ties with all Arab countries.

Dr. Anan attributed the strain in relations with the Palestinian leadership to a "lack of confidence on the part of one of them."

Stressing Jordan's clear and principled policy, Dr. Anan told Petra that Jordan respects the will and sovereignty of all Arab coun-

tries and insists on the total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Arab parties concerned of their total sovereignty on these territories.

Dr. Anan said Jordan's policy was based on inter-Arab cooperation and coordination, mutual respect and non-interference in others' internal affairs.

He said Jordan was keen on avoiding any direct or indirect criticism or slander of any Arab country.

Dr. Anan said the Jordanian press enjoys freedom of expression within the rules in force, noting that some of newspaper analysis or commentaries have sometimes been the subject of protest or criticism.

However, he added, the official media is fully committed to respecting positions of the various Arab countries and to supporting their rights.

Dr. Anan was reported to have said that he could not assess the degree of security forces' response against opposition to the peace treaty.

Opposition to the peace treaty, whether that response was exaggerated or the basis on which it was carried out. One leading columnist, Sultan Hattab, writing in Al Ra'i daily, expressed astonishment at Dr. Anan's statement. Mr. Hattab said that although he was close to the government he was "too far from what Anan had to say."

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman meanwhile denied his coun-

try was holding secret peace talks with Israel.

Reports of secret Israeli-Syrian contacts were "orchestrated by Israel to cast doubt on Syria's position," said Mr. Salman, quoted by the Ad Dustour daily.

Dr. Anan said Saturday there were reports "which say that Syrian delegations are negotiating with Israel" in secret.

But the Syrian minister insisted: "There are no secret negotiations between Syria and Israel, and all contacts are carried out solely through the intermediary of the United States."

Mr. Salman added that Israel "has still not accepted the principle of a just and comprehensive peace."

"The ideas that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will transmit during his next visit to Damascus will depend on the Israeli reaction to Syrian peace demands," he said.

Mr. Christopher is to begin a new shuttle mission to the Middle East in December.

Meanwhile a Syrian official in Damascus asserted the agreements Israel had struck with the Palestinians and Jordan had only served to advance the interests of the Jewish state.

"Certain Arab parties have only achieved the interests and objectives of Israel by concluding separate deals," Abdullah Al Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of Syria's ruling Baath Party, said.



The body of Rabbi Amiram Olmi from the West Bank settlement of Otniel lies next to his car after he was killed by gunfire during an attack near south of Hebron (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel announce full ties

Barak no longer in list as possible envoy to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel on Sunday announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between them in line with the peace treaty the two countries signed on Oct. 26. Embassies are expected to be open in Amman and Tel Aviv on Dec. 10.

The Foreign Ministry also formally approved the nomination of Marwan Muasher, Jordan's spokesman during the peace negotiations with Israel, as the Kingdom's first ambassador to the Jewish state.

The appointment of Dr. Muasher, who also served as head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, as an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and forwarding his name to the Israeli foreign ministry for approval.

Meanwhile Israeli reports said Ehud Barak, the outgoing Israeli chief of staff, had turned down his nomination as Israel's ambassador to Jordan.

According to diplomatic sources, the Israeli government has not decided on who to nominate as its envoy in Amman and that a decision was expected this week.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that the first group of Jordanian tourists would leave for Israel on Monday after securing Israeli visas following a 10-day wait. The group would cross into Israel from the southern crossing point in the Wadi Araba which was opened on Aug. 8.

The announcement of diplomatic relations came in a joint statement issued simultaneously by the governments of the two countries.

"The governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

and the government of the State of Israel, based on Article 5 of the peace treaty of Oct. 26 and their desire to build and develop friendly relations and cooperation, have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the level of ambassadors effective today," Sunday, said the joint statement.

"On this occasion, the two countries voice their hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations will enhance and contribute to consolidating and boosting the development and forms of cooperation between them to achieve the interests of both countries and serve the cause of comprehensive peace in the region," said the statement.

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as well as the state-run media of the two countries, said Amman and Tel Aviv would exchange ambassadors as early as possible.

The Council of Ministers adopted a formal decision on Nov. 19 to establish formal relations with Israel and the Cabinet decision was approved by His Majesty King Hussein who issued a Royal Decree, Petra said.

A Jordanian delegation headed by Omar Al Rifai from the Foreign Ministry is scheduled to visit Israel on Thursday and Friday to choose a site for the Jordanian embassy and residences for diplomats.

Officials have said that the two sides might rent hotel suites in Amman and Tel Aviv as temporary embassies and residences.

The embassies are expected to have a small staff in the initial phase; an ambas-

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Tension rekindled in 'Ain Al Hilweh

SIDON (AP) — Palestinian dissidents gave Yasser Arafat's loyalists a three-hour ultimatum to leave the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon Sunday or face an attack to evict them by force.

The warring b y Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdad, who defected from Mr. Arafat's ranks in protest against his self-rule accord with Israel last year, threatened to reignite street battles which killed 10 people and wounded 25 on Friday.

"You either get out by 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) or I shall lower the boom and send roofs crashing down on your heads," Col. Maqdad said.

Speaking by telephone from his headquarters in the 'Ain Al Hilweh shantytown, he told the Associated Press that he had sent an emissary to the leadership of Mr. Arafat's loyalists to deliver the ultimatum.

The looming showdown in the camp, on the southeastern outskirts of this port city 40 kilometres south of Beirut, is unlikely to influence the crisis between Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority and Islamic fundamentalist factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

When news of Col. Maqdad's threat spread, scores of panicky Palestinian civilians hurriedly packed bundles of clothes and streamed out of areas controlled by Mr. Arafat's 150-strong loyalists in the northern section of the sprawling shanty-

town.

As they left, Col. Maqdad, who is backed by Syria and the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad factions, put his 300 guerrillas on alert in the southern part of the camp.

An aide to Col. Maqdad, Major Khaled Al Shayeb, defected from Mr. Arafat's ranks in protest against his self-rule accord with Israel last year, threatened to reignite street battles which killed 10 people and wounded 25 on Friday.

"The current situation is like powderkeg. It could explode any moment," Maj. Shayeb told the AP. "I don't want to have anything to do with it."

Arafat loyalists control about a quarter of 'Ain Al Hilweh, home to 60,000 Palestinians.

On Friday, the loyalists, led by intelligence chief Lt.-Col. Khaled Medhat, launched attacks against Fatah dissidents to wrest control of the camp and managed to seize several posts held by their rivals.

But Col. Medhat's men were driven back in a counterattack a few hours later.

Lebanese police have described Friday's clashes as the worst in Lebanon since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the limited self-rule accord with Israel Sept. 13, 1993.

President Elias Hrawi warned the warring factions Saturday that the government will send its army into 'Ain Al Hilweh to quell any renewal of the fighting.

There was no sign Sunday

Such statements and the fact that no guns were fired are bound to change the image of the radical group and drive home its importance as a negotiating partner.

Hamas leader Emad Faluji told AFP he expected future political life with the PNA to centre on "serious talks, and the right of every faction according to its real representation on the ground."

A recent poll by a Palestinian centre in the West Bank and Gaza showed 42 per cent supporting Mr. Arafat's Fatah, and 17.4 per cent supporting Hamas. Other opposition groups scored less.

The PNA has often begun talks with Hamas leaders, and Mr. Arafat has appointed a few of its members to important positions such as judge of Islamic courts.

But relations have been hampered by Hamas attacks against Israel by Gaza militants, or against Jewish settlers and Israeli soldiers on the Strip.

With each attack, Israel reminded Mr. Arafat of his commitment to prevent such acts in areas under his control, and the Palestinian

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Investment Promotion Department announces that its One-Stop Shop will receive all applications for investment in Jordan as of January 1st, 1994. The One-Stop Shop will process all applications and follow them through in lieu of the investors through the representatives of investment related ministries, departments and private and public sector agencies.

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Jordan Times

Palestinians poised to take charge of new powers

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinians are poised to take charge of tax-collection and health in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday to give them greater control of their daily lives.

Israel is to devolve power for health, direct taxes and value added tax to Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, after transferring control of education to the Palestinians in August and social affairs and tourism in mid-November.

The handover will complete the early transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians on the West Bank, as laid down in the September 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation declaration of principles on autonomy.

"We are ready to take charge of the health system," said Hussein Abdul Hadi, director of the Palestinian health ministry.

The self-rule authority will take responsibility for paying the salaries of 2,100 employees working in nine hospitals and 53 specialised clinics, as well as 170 first-aid centres.

All the employees are Palestinians who have worked until now for the health department of the Israeli military administration.



Militants waving black flags march through the crowd during a rally called by Hamas in Gaza City on Saturday (AFP photo)

Medical workers are counting on the Palestinian take-over to improve conditions in the West Bank's hospitals.

"I hope the health situation will improve," a doctor at Ramallah hospital, north of Jerusalem, told AFP. "We are suffering shortages of equipment and staff in hos-

pitals."

"I expect the Palestinian authority to give us the opportunity to offer a better service," the doctor said, asking not to be named.

The annual health budget for the West Bank is \$30 million, according to official Israeli figures.

"We are committed to putting in all the necessary money," stressed Atif Alauna, of the Palestinian finance ministry.

Next year the Palestinians forecast a total budget of \$150 million for the West Bank and Gaza Strip — more than double the current

Islamists walk tightrope between Israel, civil war

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Islamic militants are walking a tightrope by trying to fight Israel without sparking a civil war with Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, Palestinian officials said.

A deep divide between the Palestinian movements was papered over when Hamas told 20,000 people at a peaceful rally on Saturday that the militants would turn their guns on Israelis while keeping the truce with the authority.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials hailed the demonstrators as "responsible" for upholding an accord to avoid more violence like the Nov. 18 clashes between the self-rule police and Hamas supporters that left 14 people dead.

"We do not accept any peace between Arafat and the Israelis because Israel will only understand the language of force," Imad Falouji, an official with the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, told AFP.

But he added that his group's relations with the authority — which launched limited self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May — must be based on mutual respect.

Hamas seeks to prove that the "Islamists, and not Arafat, are capable of driving Israel out of the occupied territories and building a Palestinian state," he said.

But he acknowledged that the Islamists would be plunged into difficulties if they had to start running the autonomous Gaza Strip all of a sudden.

Hamas wants a state ruled by Sharia over all of the former Palestine, in place of Israel, but envisages a state in the Gaza Strip and West Bank as an intermediary step.

The PLO hopes that in later negotiations it will achieve a mini-state in Gaza and the West Bank with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The smaller militant group Islamic Jihad faces some of the same dilemmas as Hamas.

"The problem is how to

fight the battle against the Zionist enemy until victory without sparking an open conflict with the Palestinian Authority which signed the autonomy accords with Israel," a Jihad official told AFP.

To ease friction with this authority, he said, his group is ready to "reduce attacks in the Gaza Strip without completely ending them."

On the other hand, the Jihad "will strike twice as hard in the other parts of occupied Palestine," or in the West Bank and Israel proper, said the official requesting anonymity.

He was ready to admit that the autonomy accord was a fact "that no inter-Palestinian battle can change," although the deal was a capitulation.

The Jihad is putting its hopes on "the newfound unity in the Arab World" and places the Israeli-Palestinian conflict against a larger backdrop of the confrontation between the West and Islam.

"The Jewish state set up by the West in the heart of the Muslim World to tear it apart will end up being destroyed by the believers," the fundamentalist official said.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the war games were codenamed Ya Zahra, in memory of Fatima Al Zahra, the daughter of the Prophet Mohammad. Her birth anniversary was marked last week.

The agency gave no details of the exercises, the number of volunteer forces involved or the duration of the manoeuvres.

But similar events in the past by other military groups have included setting up checkpoints to search cars and pedestrians for weapons, explosives or any sort of contraband goods. They also hunted down violators of the Islamic dress codes.

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction, Sufan Abu Zaid, said meanwhile that the deal struck with the militants "is only a truce aimed at reducing tensions."

"For tactical reasons, the Islamic opposition is today avoiding confrontation with the authorities, as the balance of power is not in its favour," he said.

But it's only postponed for a later date because the divide is too deep between the authority which defends the peace process and those who want to torpedo it," he said.

Two boxes containing more than 20 pieces of jewellery and other valuable objects were picked up late on Saturday

Polisario wants U.N. to leave W. Sahara

ALGIERS (AP) — The deputy leader of the Polisario Front said Sunday he wants the United Nations to withdraw its mission from the disputed Western Sahara so his guerrilla organisation can resume combat.

The remarks cast a new shadow over U.N. efforts to organise a referendum to determine the future of the territory, claimed by Morocco since 1975. They were made at a news conference in Tindouf, in southwestern Algeria, as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali visited refugee camps there and met with Polisario leaders.

The Polisario has been fighting for independence for the Western Sahara since Spain gave up claims to the territory in 1975. The two

parties have observed a ceasefire in their costly war since September 1991 as part of the U.N. peace effort.

The Sahraouis hope that Ghali will make good on his threat to withdraw the United Nations from the Western Sahara so the armed struggle can be resumed without making problems for (U.N. forces) or the Security Council," Bachir Mustapha-Sayed said. He was quoted by the official Algerian APS news agency.

It was not clear whether he reflected the thinking of Polisario leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz, who called for an eventual referendum on the Western Sahara's fate.

The voting was to be held in February but was cancelled for a second time because of differences between Morocco and the Polisario over how to choose potential voters.

"The Security Council wants a date for the referendum. The longer the United Nations stays in the Western Sahara, the more expensive it gets," Dr. Ghali said in Algiers Saturday.

The Polisario accuse Morocco of bloating the ranks of pro-Morocco votes through "colonisation" of the territory. It wants the head count identifying legitimate voters to be based on a 1974 Spanish census. Morocco claims the census does not reflect reality.

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Chechen opposition pulls back after failing to take Grozny

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Forces of the Moscow-backed opposition in Chechnya have withdrawn after an unsuccessful attempt to capture the capital Grozny, a spokesman for the Russian.

Hundreds of Moscow-backed troops withdrew from Grozny overnight Saturday "in order to regroup their forces," the FSK spokesman said.

Loyalist commanders told the Interfax News Agency the opposition lost more than 200 men and about 20 tanks in the bloody battle Friday and Saturday.

The troops had pulled back to positions over 20 kilometres outside Grozny, hidden from the city by hills, the commanders said.

Quoting the army general staff, Interfax said Chechen government forces had captured 12 tanks and taken 120 prisoners.

"Among the prisoners are around 68 Russian soldiers, the general staff said, accusing Moscow of direct involvement in the opposition attempt to overthrow President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The FSK spokesman acknowledged that Moscow provided military equipment and financial help for the rebels but he denied claims that it had also provided troops and said the prisoners claimed by the loyalists were probably mercenaries.

Appearing to back that claim, one of the prisoners, who gave his name as Major Valeri Ivanov, told Interfax

in an interview that he had been recruited by the opposition and was being paid three million rubles (\$1,000) a month.

The Chechen opposition has itself issued no statement since it claimed victory Saturday in the battle for the capital of the small Muslim republic in the Russian Caucasus, which has defied Moscow since proclaiming itself independent in 1991.

Moscow refuses to recognise the independence of the breakaway region, led by the former Red Army General Dudayev, and home to 1.2 million people, most of them Muslims.

And it claims the oil-rich region as one of the 89 members of the Russian Federation formed after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Mr. Dudayev's spokesman Mussa Merjuev Sunday again accused Moscow of involvement in the Chechen battle and threatened Sunday to shoot the Russian prisoners held if Moscow did not end its "adventure."

The prisoners would "probably be freed as a goodwill gesture," Mr. Merjuev said, "but if Moscow continues its military adventure in the northern Caucasus, they will, of course, be shot."

No independent witness accounts of the condition of the town or state of the fighting could be obtained from Grozny by midday Sunday.

At one point the opposition had control of the television tower and claimed victory but this was refuted by

the Chechen government. Fighting continued into the late afternoon Saturday, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

The assault launched by opposition troops was the most decisive move in four months of sporadic efforts to topple Mr. Dudayev.

The assault began Friday with attacks on government positions by 40 opposition helicopters.

Several hundred men, supported by 35 armoured cars, then pushed their way into the town centre before being forced to retreat several hours later.

The opposition, which is supported by the rebellious former Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, has been gathering strength since an opposition "Provisional Council" was formed, backed by Moscow, in August.

The offensive was led by Beslan Ganemirov and brought the conflict to the capital's centre for the first time.

"We will be in the presidential building tomorrow," a spokesman for Mr. Khasbulatov said Sunday.

Mr. Khasbulatov, meeting with military advisers at his base at Tolstoi-Yurt, 20 kilometres north of Grozny, also indicated that the offensive was not over. Asked by the Associated Press what his plans were, he replied: "No comment. We'll talk there (the presidential palace) tomorrow."

Forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev gathered outside the presidential mansion as other troops patrolled the Palace Square. Several shots were fired by nervous soldiers, sending passersby running for cover.

Government spokesman Movladi Udugov put government losses at 20 dead in Saturday's offensive. He said government forces destroyed or captured 30 opposition tanks and downed four helicopters and one SU-25 airplane.

Mr. Dudayev Saturday vowed to fight to the end against what he called Russian aggression. "If Russia continues this path, we have no other option — Russia is the aggressor," he said in a telephone interview.

Outside Mr. Khasbulatov's headquarters, Russian-speaking crews climbed into seven T-72 tanks and prepared for the next confrontation.

One blond-haired tank commander left no doubt about his nationality. "Do I look like a Chechen?" he asked. Queried about reports that each soldier had received 5 million rubles (\$1,500) for Saturday's assault on Grozny, he said, "we all have our own reasons for being here."

In Grozny, townspeople assessed the damage from Saturday's offensive, sweeping up broken glass from smashed shop windows on Victory Street, where flames shot into the air from broken gas pipes.

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ROYAL ENGAGEMENT: The oldest in the garden of the Zarzuela Palace after their daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia engagement was announced Saturday (see story page 12) (AFP photo)

1,000 S. African soldiers mobilise for peacekeeping in Angola

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — One thousand South African soldiers are mobilising to assist a regional peacekeeping force in shortening a shaky ceasefire in Angola, South African Defence Force (SANDF) officials said Sunday.

The mobilisation is in anticipation of cabinet approval of a U.N. request that South Africa send troops to form part of a new 7,000-strong regional deployment in Angola, the officials, quoted widely in South Africa's media, added.

The South African cabinet is due Wednesday to debate the request, by the U.N. secretary-general's special representative in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said an engineer battalion and an air-support detachment had been put on standby to join the multinational United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) III.

Defence Minister Joe Modise said earlier this week that although the government was reluctant to commit troops to Angola, "once the request is made it is going to be very difficult to say no."

Mr. Modise's deputy, Ronnie Kasrils, added that South Africa was "totally committed" to assisting the peace process in Angola.

Mr. Evans said, however,

"Peacekeeping can work as long as both sides are committed to peace," Mr. Kasrils said.

Foreign Affairs Director General Evans said the deployment of a U.N. force was crucial to the implementation of the Nov. 20 Lusaka protocol, under which the Angolan government and the rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) movement agreed to end their 19-year civil war and authorised a ceasefire from last Tuesday.

Mr. Evans said that because of South Africa's historical involvement in the Angolan civil war, the U.N. did not expect Pretoria to send combat troops.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the former white minority Pretoria government gave military and financial support to UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in his fight against the forces of Marxist President Eduardo Dos Santos.

Mr. Evans said, however,

that South Africa was now well-placed to provide logistical support, communications, engineers and carriers.

An air force spokesman

said the South African Air Force will provide transport aircraft and helicopters if the cabinet approves the Angolan mission.

Zambia and Zimbabwe, whose soldiers won high

praise in the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Somalia, are sending up to six infantry battalions to Angola.

If the peace accord holds, Mr. Evans added, UNAVEM III should be operational by early January.

South Africa has so far resisted pressure to send troops to Rwanda, Haiti and Lesotho but because Angola is seen as more of a regional responsibility, indications are the cabinet will reluctantly approve the deployment.

Meanwhile, Angolan state radio Sunday repeated a government demand for the release of four helicopter crewmen alleged to have been captured by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels after being shot down in the south.

"The Angolan Air Force demands the unconditional release of these men," the radio said.

The Luanda government charged Saturday that rebels shot down the helicopter, killing 22 people on board; while it was ferrying wounded soldiers from the southeastern city of Cuito Cuanavale.

The government and UNITA have repeatedly accused each other of violating a ceasefire signed in Lusaka last Tuesday to end a 19-year civil war in Angola.

Early Beatles disc fetches \$17,200

LONDON (R) — The first Beatles record ever to be played on radio fetched a world record price of £11,000 (\$17,200), Bonham's Auctioneers said. A spokeswoman said the recording of Love Me Do played by Radio Luxembourg in 1963 launched the Liverpool pop group on their way to fame and fortune. "This record was the first ever played (on radio)... it was responsible for launching 'Beatlemania,'" the spokeswoman said. It was bought by Mikel Basca, a Madrid man who works in the music business and plans to hang it on a wall at home. The disc was put up for auction by British Disc Jockey Tony Prince, who inherited the record during a clearance of the radio Luxembourg Library. Bonham's said Mr. Prince wrote to ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, who confirmed that, as far as he knew Luxembourg was the first radio station to play a Beatles record. The vinyl disc was a demonstration copy signed by Paul McCartney — whose name was misspelt "McArtney" on the Parlophone label — as co-writer of the song with John Lennon.

No police security for alleged Ramos lover

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos's security chief has denied that police were ever assigned to guard a socialite rumoured to have once been a mistress of Mr. Ramos. Contrary to newspaper reports, no policemen provided security for Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas during her recent visit to central Cebu City or escorted her out of Manila airport on her return from the trip, General Leo Alvez said Saturday.

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Police probe U.K.'s biggest child sex abuse case

LONDON (R) — Northern Ireland police have uncovered Britain's biggest child sex abuse case, allegedly involving more than 100 children, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday. The Observer, in a front-page report, said a massive police dossier built up during their investigations would be handed to state prosecutors next week. It said the investigation centred on a public housing estate in Londonderry, northwest of Belfast. Three men are in custody and more than a dozen others have been questioned and released but other charges are expected to follow. According to one source quoted by the Observer, the alleged paedophile ring on the estate has involved "the biggest child sex abuse investigations ever in these islands." It said the abuses described by children allegedly involved, mostly boys aged between eight and 12, included rape, buggery and group sex. There are also allegations of violence and threats to kidnap. The Observer reported Northern Ireland police confirmed there had been an investigation into alleged child sex abuse in the Londonderry area but said the case was now sub judice and refused to comment further.

British woman priest weds divorcee

LONDON (AFP) — A Church of England woman priest Saturday became the first British clergywoman to marry a divorced man, tying the knot in a civil ceremony after her bishop ruled against a church wedding. The Reverend Christine Streeter, the curate at Rosedale Abbey in Yorkshire, northern England, met her husband, David Haddon-Reece, during a pastoral visit to his home two years ago. A vicar from the neighbouring parish blessed the couple in a ceremony at St. Mary's Church, Lastingham, after the civil ceremony wedding. The new Mrs. Haddon-Reece said she had not become involved in the Church of England's internal debate on remarrying divorcees. Mr. Haddon-Reece, a retired archaeologist, said that his wife had baptised him into the church 18 months ago.

Uruguayans vote for new president

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Ten years after it emerged from a decade of military rule, Uruguay chooses a new president Sunday in the closest contest in its 166-year history.

Uruguay is South America's second-smallest country, with some 2.3 million registered voters.

The three parties vying for the presidency are at most 1.6 points apart in opinion polls, with 28.6 per cent for the

ruling centrist National Party, 28.4 per cent for the rival centrist Colorado Party and 27 per cent for the centre-left Progressive Gathering.

Under Uruguay's complex electoral laws, each party can field as many presidential candidates as it wants. The centre-left Alliance has only one, but the National Party and the Colorados have three each.

The winner will succeed

President Luis Alberto Lacalle, whose efforts to push his country aboard Latin America's free-markets bandwagon were defeated by a 1992 referendum which showed most Uruguayans opposed economic liberalisation.

His National Party's top contender is Alberto Volont, 55, a free-market businessman and a newcomer to politics who struck a populist note in his campaign.

Discussions with Protestant paramilitary groups determined to keep Northern Ireland British would also start by the end of December, he said.

The fall of the Irish Republic's government two weeks ago has upset the timetable for the fragile peace process and left Britain, less keen than Ireland to race ahead, in charge.

"We have carefully reviewed the actions of Sinn Fein and the IRA. These have been more compelling than their words," Mr. Ancram told a political meeting in Northern Ireland.

"This means we can move carefully towards the beginning of exploratory dialogue with Sinn Fein before Christmas provided that the Irish Republican Army continues to show that it has ended terrorism."

The most notable absentee from the summit will be Rwanda, where 60 per cent of the military was infected with the HIV virus before this summer's three-month bloody civil war, according to official figures.

The official explanation for the absence is given by Mr. Debre that Rwanda did not attend preparatory meetings in June for the summit in the middle of its civil war.

Kigali's empty chair at the summit however follows its absence similarly from a Franco-African summit in Biarritz earlier in the month, which was reportedly due to French concern over the new Kigali regime.

Thursday's political event will be preceded Wednesday by a conference of international scientific authorities on how to battle the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

The United States and Japan have already come under attack for restrictive policies on allowing AIDS sufferers in, while the Russian parliament has also passed a law requiring AIDS tests for all foreigners entering the country.

A key theme will be how the richer countries of the northern hemisphere can help those of the south by providing resources and education to combat the pandemic.

French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre said the summit was aimed at developing "greater sense, responsibility and solidarity among developed countries for the countries of the south."

"No continent is now free

of the epidemic, it concerns every country," Mr. Debre said.

"Either because they are cruelly hit by the virus, or because all indications are that they are about to be ravaged, or because they are the main providers of money, they have to give a helping hand to those who are without."

French Social Affairs Minister Simone Veil said one specific concern was the transmission of the HIV virus by blood transfusions, and said action would be taken in this area.

She recently announced that France was upping its contribution to international AIDS organisations from 10 million francs to 100 million francs (about \$2 million) to \$20 million) in 1995.

France has the highest incidence of AIDS in the European Union.

Another crucial concern covers the rights of AIDS patients worldwide, who according to Veil are threatened by intolerance and restrictions.

The United States and Japan have already come under attack for restrictive policies on allowing AIDS sufferers in, while the Russian parliament has also passed a law requiring AIDS tests for all foreigners entering the country.

Ms. Veil said freedom of movement for sufferers would be a key issue at the

summit. Russia will be represented.

Mr. Debre said the summit would provide an opportunity to propose "a certain number of initiatives concerning international cooperation aimed in particular at the most dramatic problems."

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World News

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Perry: Serbs able to overrun Bihać

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday the Bosnian Serbs were in a position to overrun Bihać if they wanted to and that there would be no point in NATO air strikes.

"It seems clear they could occupy it if they decided to do that," Mr. Perry said in on NBC's *Meet The Press* programme. He said NATO was prepared to use air strikes if asked by the United Nations, but that "even if they would ask for air strikes, air strikes cannot determine the outcome of the ground combat."



No police sec
for alleged
Ramos lover

Sarajevoans run for their lives as sniping and anti-aircraft gun firing slammed into the Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

U.N. peacekeepers feared Sunday that Serb forces would shut the only escape route from Bihać to trap Bosnian government army troops they have vowed to destroy.

The United Nations reported skirmishing during the night between Muslim-led Bosnian 5th Corps soldiers defending the U.N.-designated "safe area" in northwest Bosnia and Serbs almost encircling it with tanks and artillery.

There was no immediate attempt by Bosnian Serb forces to push deeper into the haven, which comprises the

town and its outskirts, but a U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) source in Sarajevo said:

"We think the Serbs will try to close the gap to the north, certainly squeeze in closer if not close it altogether."

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) commanders have left one exit road open to allow Muslim civilians and refugees in Bihać a means to flee the fighting.

If it is closed, the 300 to 400 5th Corps soldiers left in Bihać will be at the mercy of BSA forces under orders from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić to wipe them out.

Closure of the road would also prevent the evacuation of an estimated 60,000 non-combatants from the town, as demanded by Bosnian officials.

U.N. officials doubted in any case whether an operation on such a scale was possible.

"It would be extremely difficult to implement," one said. "It's very hard to see how they could be moved at this stage and even if they could, how could they be sheltered and fed elsewhere."

Bihać is on the verge of becoming the first of the six U.N.-protected Muslim safe havens in Bosnia to fall to the Serbs.

In eastern Bosnia, the BSA was content to surround Muslim settlements like Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa and leave the United Nations with the responsibility of feeding them.

UNPROFOR Commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose said: "militarily speaking, it's quite obvious to me that if the BSA wishes

to occupy areas within the Bihać U.N.-designated safe area they could do that.

"I think there is fighting going on there right at the moment. Which way it goes I really can't predict."

NATO admitted its warplanes were unable to help the town's defence with air strikes because of the strength of surrounding BSA anti-aircraft missile systems.

The U.N. Security Council demanded Saturday that the Serbs withdraw but the 23,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia and NATO have effectively been relegated to a helpless spectating role.

Moscow signalled its misgivings over the U.N. activities as Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev pressed Serbia's leader Slobodan Milošević to intervene with the Bosnian Serbs.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Mr. Kozyrev wrote to the U.N. secretary-general saying the world body's job was "not in forcing the sides towards peace, and not in conducting war, but in backing a peaceful political settlement."

The Russian government is particularly opposed to the use of NATO air power after committing itself as the Serbs' spokesman in international peace efforts.

Although the centre of Bihać was quiet Sunday morning, U.N. spokesman Michael Williams said "the position is increasingly untenable as (Serb attackers) tighten their grip on the south and west of the city."

He quoted a U.N. report as saying: "All villages to the south have been overrun and burnt with a view to preventing the return of their population. There are over 2,000

patients in Bihać Hospital (which normally has beds for 700)."

The report said the BSA and its Serbs allies from the rebel Krajina enclave in neighbouring Croatia made "big advances up to and into the town" Saturday.

The Croatian Serb involvement, which violated an international border and was specifically condemned by the Security Council, seemed to have grown, it added.

The government's 5th Corps said Sunday Serbs attacked Bihać with howitzers, anti-aircraft cannon, mortars and tanks in heavy fighting just one kilometre from the overcrowded town hospital.

Spokesman Sandi Žulic,

speaking to Reuters in Zagreb by telephone, said there was hand-to-hand fighting near the hospital. Defence lines were holding but there was heavy damage and casualties.

The heaviest of today's fighting is just under way ... their tanks are about one kilometre from the hospital, so the hospital is practically on the very first front line," Mr. Žulic said.

A U.N. relief worker who visited the hospital earlier Sunday confirmed that fighting was very close, perhaps even closer than one km to the "very exposed" building, with smoke drifting across the lines and loud explosions audible.

Mr. Žulic said the defence

lines did not move this morning but "the destruction is terrible."

Lots of people have fled into town ahead of the Serb attacks. The heaviest attacks are coming from the south and south-west ... there is hand-to-hand fighting near the hospital."

Meanwhile, Serb forces took about 150 British and Dutch peacekeepers hostage in eastern Bosnia Saturday after having detained another 250 U.N. soldiers around Sarajevo earlier in the week, the United Nations said Sunday.

"The Serbs blocked four UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) convoys that had received clearance through their territory," said Major Koen Sol, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. "They're being detained or held hostage, if you will. We are in contact with Serb authorities trying to clarify the situation."

Maj. Sol said a convoy carrying 43 British soldiers out of Gorazde had been stopped in Serb-held Ustipraca. A convoy of British military engineers headed into Gorazde is being held by Serbs in Rogatica.

Two Dutch convoys were also involved. One, carrying 70 Dutch troops out of the government enclave of Srebrenica on route to the Croatian capital Bosnia and Zagreb. "We don't know where they are and they have dropped out of communication," said Maj. Sol.

Doctors giving first aid to a man who was wounded by shrapnel from an anti-aircraft gun in Sarajevo. At least one

man was wounded as shooting forced pedestrians once again to run for their lives (AFP photo)

Major set to win key Euro-vote

LONDON (R) — Rebels from Britain's ruling Conservatives admitted defeat Sunday in a showdown with Prime Minister John Major over Europe and were warned it would be a "grave mistake" to challenge his leadership.

Press reports that disaffected ex-Finance Minister Norman Lamont was ready to try to oust Mr. Major this week added to the woes of a deeply unpopular prime minister, but his cabinet colleagues rallied round.

"I'm quite sure there won't be a challenge to the prime minister," Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard told BBC Television. "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to play any part in such a venture."

"I'm sure it's obvious to (Lamont) he would cut an absolutely ridiculous figure if he did anything of the kind."

But the Sunday Telegraph confidently led with a story that Mr. Lamont, sacked by Mr. Major 18 months ago, would act as standard-bearer for "Euro-sceptic" Conservative members of parliament bitter at strong-arm tactics used to blunt their rebellion.

Mr. Major told the rebels last week that the government would resign and force an early general election if they failed to sink a key bill

Monday that would increase British funding to the European Union. The government has a slender 14-seat majority in parliament.

The ultimatum, backed by the whole cabinet in a bid to convince the rebels they could not use the vote to replace Mr. Major, appears to have worked.

"I don't think there will be enough (of us) to make the government fall," outspoken Euro-rebel Bill Cash told BBC Television.

"We'll get our majority tomorrow night," Mr. Howard said. Cabinet colleague John Redwood, a rightwinger with anti-European sympathies, added:

"The government will win. Conservative MPs (members of parliament) will not want to vote no in a confidence vote on their government."

Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley upped the stakes Saturday, warning rebels they faced being effectively shut out of the party in parliament — jeopardising their right to vote in a leadership challenge — if they wrecked the bill.

Under party rules the rebels have until Wednesday — the day after the government's annual budget is revealed — to collect 34 signatures to challenge Mr. Major's leadership.

He has three years before he must call another election.

The Conservatives know that if the government fell now they would probably lose an election. Opinion polls give the main opposition Labour Party until its young new leader Tony Blair a lead of more than 30 percentage points.

Thousands march against Bangladesh government

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 35,000 opposition activists, many carrying clubs, marched through the capital Sunday, vowing to bring down the government and force serious leadership bid.

Mr. Major, who took over from "iron lady" Margaret Thatcher in just such a party coup in 1990, has often been criticised for weak leadership, and has been dogged by a series of sex and financial scandals involving his colleagues.

After winning the last general election in 1992, he survived a critical test when he forced the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on closer European ties last year despite a Euro-sceptic revolt.

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The opposition has alleged corruption and voting fraud by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) while the government accuses some opposition parties of trying to frustrate democracy through politics of strikes and destruction.

The government is afraid of a caretaker administration because that might expose its misdeeds," she said.

Opposition parties have threatened to quit parliament unless the government resigns and calls early elections under a neutral, caretaker administration.

The opposition has alleged corruption and voting fraud by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) while the government accuses some opposition parties of trying to frustrate democracy through politics of strikes and destruction.

The tactic seems to be paying dividends with a weekend poll showing that 64 per cent of Indians believed

that the Berlusconi government should stay on.

Some 1,000 Berlusconi backers staged a march in the northern Italian city of Turin Sunday, collecting signatures pledging solidarity with the prime minister.

More than 300 Berlusconi loyalists demonstrated Saturday outside the offices of Milan's "main-publi": (clean hands) elite pool of prosecutors.

The prime minister must now win the backing of coalition partners at a crucial cabinet session Tuesday and then seek a compromise with unions Wednesday to avert an eight-hour general strike planned for Dec. 2.

Mr. Berlusconi plans to use Tuesday's cabinet meeting to try to rally his shaky six-month-old coalition — and primarily the combative Northern League party — around a programme for government over the coming months.

The League is expected to support Mr. Berlusconi only conditionally backing and agree to support him until the unpopular 1995 budget is approved by parliament. It is then expected to seek a thorough review of the alliance.

Parliament must by law approve the budget for next year by Dec. 31, 1994.

"We have to see if this government can do more and better. This is the sense of the review we have requested once the budget is approved," the League's Interior Minister Roberto Maroni told weekly magazine *Il Mondo Economico*.

Northern League leader Umberto Bossi met President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Saturday and was reported to have agreed to continue to back the government until the budget was approved.

Mr. Berlusconi's aides say the prime minister must now win the backing of coalition partners at a crucial cabinet session Tuesday and then seek a compromise with unions Wednesday to avert an eight-hour general strike planned for Dec. 2.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة صدرت باللغة الإنجليزية من المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Fax: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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Clash without cause

LEBANESE PRESIDENT Elias Hrawi has a right to warn the Palestinian factions at 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp to stop their internecine fighting or face an immediate intervention by the Lebanese army. The Palestinian refugees that make Lebanon their temporary home till their plight is resolved must not abuse the hospitality of the Arab host country by threatening once again its security and stability, especially when there is no reason to fight in the first place. The affected sprawling refugees camp houses about 60,000 Palestinians on the outskirts of Sidon, a major Lebanese city only 40 kilometres south of Beirut. It does not take much imagination to realise that the infighting at 'Ain Al Hilweh shantytown could spill over to other parts of the country unless checked and checked effectively and quickly.

Lebanon has been nursing a return to normality after more than 15 years of bloodshed in which various Palestinian militant groups also took an active part at one stage or another. The country can ill-afford a return to the days of armed conflict and destruction. Granted the cause of the recent eruption of bloody clashes between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat loyalists and his foes is attributed to the peace-process between the PLO and Israel. We have seen a similar outburst of violence in Gaza City only two weeks ago that took the lives of scores of Palestinians and injured hundreds. The death toll from the 'Ain Al Hilweh fighting is estimated to have reached more than ten with tens of others gravely injured. With the Palestinian people deeply divided over the Oslo and Cairo accords struck between Arafat's Fatah group and Israel, the recurrence of violence between the opposing factions would continue to haunt not only the autonomous Palestinian areas but also the neighbouring Arab countries that still play host to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees.

The Lebanese warning on the recent clashes is therefore a timely word of caution that should spur the Palestinians to settle their differences by democratic means no matter where they are. Otherwise the Palestinian people would continue to be an easy prey for their enemies and subject to manipulation when they least need it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Arab Gulf states are ready for reconciliation with Jordan, after the end of the storm raised over the Gulf crisis, the time has come for the Jordanian government to demand that the rights of the Jordanian citizens who have lost their property in Kuwait be restored, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour Sunday. A great deal has been said about the compensation for the returning expatriates but nothing has been said about those Jordanians who lost everything and all their savings that were invested in private businesses, noted the writer. He said that these people are not allowed to go back to Kuwait to claim their property and their rights, neither are they backed by the Jordanian government's efforts to help them re-gain their lawful rights. The only fault they had for losing their property was that they were not Kuwaitis but holders of Jordanian passports, added the writer. He said that the government ought to defend the expatriates' bid as they had never been involved in any political activity against the Kuwaiti government.

ARAFAT HIAZI, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily, said that it has been customary for the Zionists to launch repeated campaigns against Islam and Muslims, accusing them of being terrorists so that the Western nations can give Israel more backing in its drive to consolidate its occupation of Palestine. The writer said that Israel has lately been trying to link resistance activity conducted by Hamas to Iran, accusing Tehran of encouraging and helping the Islamists, a ploy intended to win Western support against Muslims because Western nations are oriented against the Iranian regime. The Israelis are also trying to cover up for their atrocities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly for their usurpation of the holy Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron where settlers massacred scores of Arabs and continue to do so, said the writer. He said the rulers of occupied Hebron at present are groups of Jewish terrorist settlers roaming the streets and killing children in cold blood. It is these Jewish settlers and the Zionist leaders who encourage their actions that are the real terrorists who commit crime against humanity, said the writer.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'ad

Peace treaty, potential GATT membership bode well for human rights in Jordan

AS I see it, the ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the application for membership in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) bode well for human rights in Jordan. The first sign of this positive development at the Israeli-Jordanian level is the beginning of commercial dealings between the two countries, which stands to improve the lot for Jordanians not only in terms of revenues but also enhancing the quality of the food we eat.

The first shipment of tomatoes to Israel was tested very carefully by Israel for not only outward appearance but also for the amounts of pesticide and insecticide residues. That means that Jordanian farmers would now have an added incentive to clean up their agricultural productions if they expect to export their produce to neighbouring Israel. The country's agricultural production has been cursed by governmental lack of adequate supervision of health factors and at the end, the "right to life" of Jordanians has suffered dearly. According to persistent medical reports, there is an upsurge in cancer cases in the Kingdom due to environmental considerations, on top of which there is contaminated foodstuff, especially agricultural produce grown locally. Now this state of affairs is poised to change as a first tangible dividend of the peace process. One can be sure that the Israeli authorities will be a bit more diligent than our authorities when it comes to safeguarding the health of their people and would not allow in foodstuff, even from "friendly" Jordan, without proper screening. This is very good news for Jordanians who had to endure much and eat their country's vegetables and fruits without sufficient testing for carcinogenic elements till this point in time. I suspect that this unfortunate situation will soon change to the better, thanks to trade and commerce with

Israel. All of us who are still uneasy with the peace treaty with Israel must at least rejoice that peace with Israel has a clearcut human rights dividend since the vegetables and fruits that we will be eating henceforth will be much safer for our health and the health of our families.

There is also another big bonus for human rights in Jordan when the Kingdom becomes a state party to GATT. One of the basic tenets of this global accord is to lower customs duties to a bare minimum. This means that Jordanians will now have the opportunity to purchase improved, locally-manufactured products at lower prices since competition from outside can be expected to improve their quality and safety standards.

It has been proven time and again that only competition is the route for improved production and as long as our infant industries are protected by high customs, they will continue to be lax in safety standards and quality control. In other words, here and again we see the promotion and protection of human rights of Jordaniens assured by economic factors, thanks to GATT and its principles. Of course, the ad literam application of GATT's guidelines would precipitate economic hardships for some of our industries and even cause casualties among their rank. But this is a small price to pay in the long run, especially if we all regard human rights as a national cause to be attained even if there is a price tag to it.

As a champion of human rights at the international level I am more than happy to see us signing and ratifying the peace treaty with Israel and striving diligently to become a faithful member of GATT, for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Why knock conciliation if it happens to work?

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Some people used to argue that the best hope for saving the world was to get more women into positions of political power. The thought was that women, being naturally inclined to cooperation and peace-making, would be less likely than men to lead us needlessly into war.

I have not heard the argument recently. Maybe that is because war seems a less planet-threatening prospect since the demise of the Soviet Union. Maybe it is because the women who did rise to political power — Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher — were not noticeably less bellicose than the men who preceded and followed them. Or maybe it is that women have started acting more like men — or, at any rate, think they should.

You will remember the old argument. Little girls (perhaps harking back to the days when women were keepers of home and hearth) play open-ended, cooperative games. Boys (responding to the hunter's necessity to capture and kill?) play games with clear-cut winners and losers.

Out of this combination of nature and nurture, the argument went, came cooperative, nurturing women and competitive, macho men.

This sexual division, of course, was never absolute. Both man and woman harbour competitive as well as cooperative urges. But it may be fair to say that the culture that has always urged men towards the aggressive side is

now doing the same with women. Cooperation and compromise have come to be seen as weakness, in women as in men.

The women who command respect in the United States these days are the tough-talking take-no-prisoners types: Patricia Ireland, Phyllis Schlafly, Maxine Waters or Ann Richards.

Are we Americans better off for this culture shift? I don't think so.

"Instead of tempting women and girls to the macho way of dealing, we need to teach men and boys the usefulness of cooperation and compromise. Our tendency towards needless warfare, ineffectual and dangerous as foreign policy, is disastrous on the domestic front."

Look at Haiti. Its political situation is relatively stable, its people are reasonably hopeful, its elected president is back in power, and America's problem with Haitian refugees is on the way to resolution. None of this means that democracy has been "restored" in that long-suffering place, but it does mean that Haiti now has a chance at political and economic salvation.

And how did that chance come about? Partly, no doubt, as a result of President Bill Clinton's threat to launch a military invasion, but also as a result of the negotiations led by former President Jimmy Carter that had the effect of making the invasion unnecessary.

Instead of tempting women and girls to the macho way of dealing, we need to teach men and boys the usefulness of cooperation and compromise. Our tendency towards needless warfare, ineffectual and dangerous as foreign policy, is disastrous on the domestic front.

"This little 'boys' way of playing seems to have become everybody's way of playing. Indeed, it seems the reasonable way to play the game — until it dawns on you that it doesn't work. The people who are open to cooperation and community building are the ones who create positive change. We keep scouring the terrain for enemies, when what we need is to remind ourselves, as someone wittier than I put it, that the problem is the problem."

Who won? Who cares? Mr. Carter played the game the way we used to think a woman might: Without the necessity of clear-cut winners and losers.

His (so far) successful approach stands out in my mind because it is so rare. The tendency these days is to

call a macho performance, but the result was the exodus of Haiti's dictators and the return of its duly elected president, without widespread bloodshed and without putting American troops in the role of a despised occupying army.

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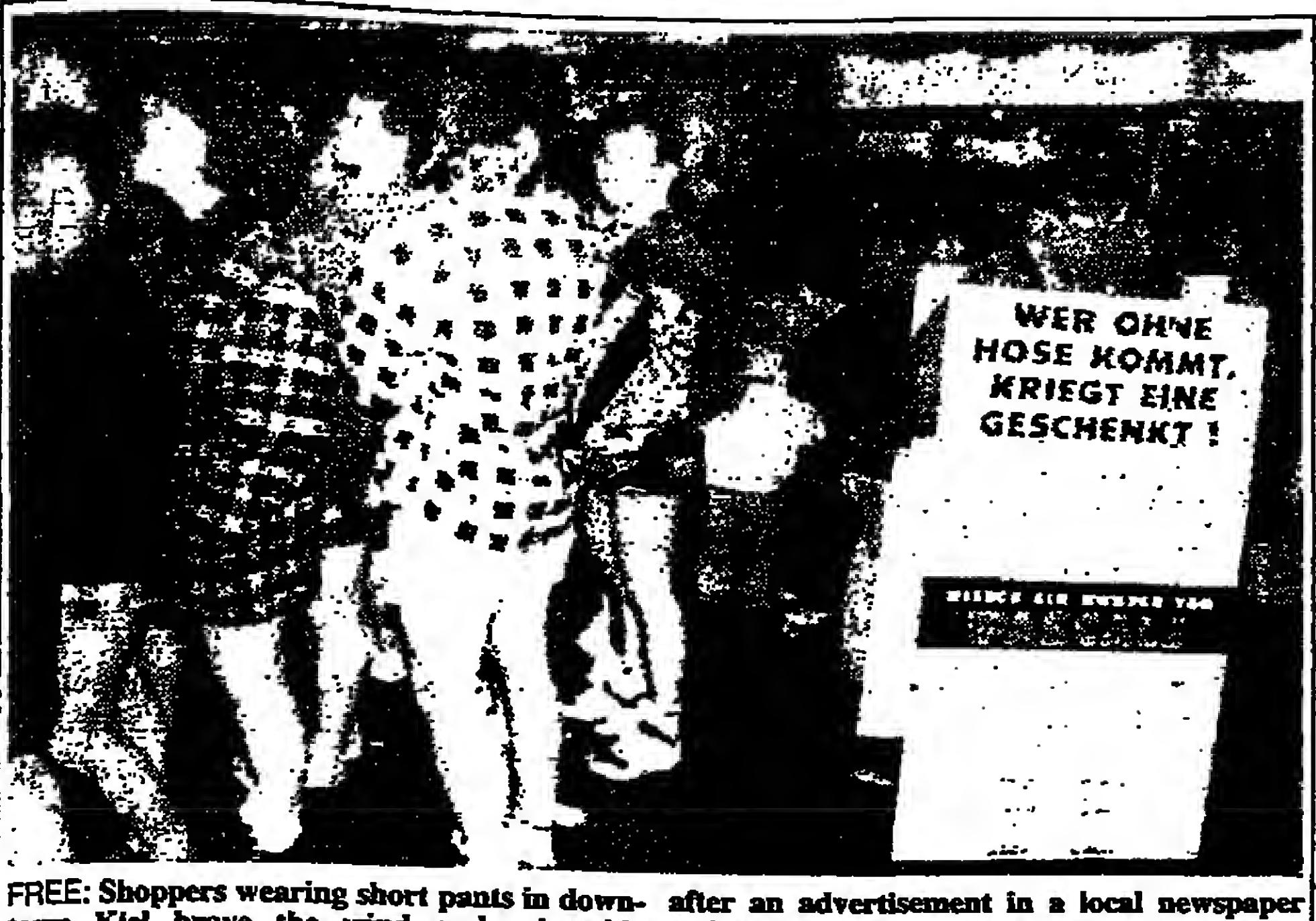
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Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1994 7



FREE: Shoppers wearing short pants in down-town Kiel brave the wind and miserable weather as they stand in a queue outside a clothing shop. The shoppers stormed the shop for free" (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel announce full ties

(Continued from page 1)

sador, a chargé d'affaires, a press relations officer and spokesman, a consul, a commercial attache and an agricultural attache who would also handle questions related to water sharing, Agence France Presse reported from occupied Jerusalem. The diplomats will be supported by administrative staff.

In addition to agreeing to resuming Jordanian territory it has occupied since 1948, Israel has also accepted the Kingdom's water rights, and arrangements that have to be made to set up the infrastructure (dams and a purification plant) to divert water to the

Kingdom.

The peace treaty calls for the establishment of full diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in one month after the exchange of the documents of ratification of the peace treaty.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the treaty on Nov. 10 during the first visit the King paid to Israel.

The two governments are expected to send formal nominations of ambassadors to each other in the next 48 hours. A group of Jordanian schoolchildren would go to Israel on Monday to attend celebrations in Haifa, becoming

the first group of Jordanians to formally enter Israel since Nov. 13, when the two countries opened the way for visits, Reuters quoted border officials as saying.

Reports from Israel said that candidates under consideration by the Israeli government as its ambassador to Jordan included career diplomat Eitan Ben Tzur (said to be favoured by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres), foreign ministry deputy director Yossi Gal, who served as Dr. Muasher's counterpart during the peace negotiations, and Ephraim Halevy, deputy head of the Israeli secret service Mossad, who is reportedly favoured by Prime Minister Rabin.

Hamas

(Continued from page 1) and holding Palestinian elections "whose date is not yet known."

Leading PLO negotiator Saeb Erakat said the Israelis "want to create obstacles to the holding of elections because they don't want an accord."

The Palestinians will be lobbying the international community in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday to fulfill pledges to provide aid for the self-rule territories. Mr. Arafat is expected to take part in a meeting of the ad hoc group of donor countries.

"We hope the donors will be aware of the danger of this phase," said Mr. Kanafani.

'Ain Al Hilweh

(Continued from page 1)

evening that Lebanese army troops, who had deployed at the six entrances to the camp, were preparing to intervene.

There are some 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon most of whom live in 12 refugee camps scattered around the country. They were controlled by PLO until its eviction in the 1992 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Arab-Israelis who acted as mediators later succeeded in negotiating a truce between the PNA and Hamas, which endured the rally.

"We're very pleased with it," said Marwan Kanafani, Mr. Arafat's spokesman. "Everybody who participated acted very responsibly."

"The idea was to have law and order, we did not want to provoke anyone," he said.

Israel may discuss status

(Continued from page 1)

a brainstorming session.

Six months of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho shows both sides that leaving a complicated web of overlapping responsibility between Palestinian police, the Israeli army and settlers is an explosive mix.

With just 16 settlements and 4,000 settlers, the arrangements in the Gaza Strip appear relatively simple when compared to over 120,000 settlers in 128 towns living among over 1.2 million Palestinians on the West Bank, creating the bypass roads alone would likely take both months of negotiations and even more time to carry out at considerable expense.

But there is a growing feeling on both sides that they are in a race against time. Palestinians are disenchanted with the lack of change in their lives, whereas Israelis are questioning whether the mounting toll is worth giving up land that makes them feel secure.

Mr. Arafat has complained that the peace process was unfolding "very slowly" because of delays in extending autonomy to the West Bank

and holding Palestinian elections "whose date is not yet known."

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Corruption allegation latest woe for Berlusconi

By Keith Weir
Reuter

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, swept to power in the warmth of last spring, is facing a bleak autumn battle for survival.

Those sunny March days when the media magnate made a triumphant entry into politics are but a distant memory as he stumbles from crisis to crisis in the November gloom.

This has not been a good week for Mr. Berlusconi.

His Forza Italia party hammered in weekend local polls, the prime minister awoke on Tuesday to find the respected Corriere della Sera newspaper reporting that Milan magistrates had taken the first steps in a possible corruption probe against him.

To increase his embarrassment, the report coincided with the prime minister hosting a United Nations conference on international crime in the southern Italian city of

Naples.

"I am serene because, as I have said many times in the past, I am absolutely sure I have not committed any offence," Mr. Berlusconi told reporters in Naples.

He has other problems to disturb his peace of mind.

Fate dealt the embattled prime minister a further blow in the form of floods two weeks ago in northern Italy in which at least 64 people died. The authorities have come under fire for their alleged slow response as the tragedy unfolded.

Hundreds of thousands of Italians have taken to the streets to protest against a government austerity budget that aims to slash the huge state deficit by \$30 billion in 1995.

The Lower House of Parliament approved the budget on Monday but it now faces possible ambush in the senate (upper house) where the government does not have an absolute majority.

Mr. Berlusconi has staked much of his credibility with

the leader of the opposition.

National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini has been loyalty personified but his assured performances have marked him out as a potential rival.

Sunday's local polls, in which 2.6 million Italians voted, saw support for Forza Italia collapse to below 10 percent while the National Alliance rose and support for the league held up.

Mr. Berlusconi discounted the outcome but commentators said it limited his margin for manoeuvre in dealing with his partners.

"If the electors... reflect the national mood, Berlusconi cannot do without Bossi in the north and is dancing to Fini's tune in the south," the daily La Repubblica wrote.

Mr. Berlusconi, 58, swept to power in general elections last March just two months after entering politics.

In the previous decade the ever-smiling billionaire had earned fame for building his Fininvest company into a \$7

billion a year empire spanning television to supermarket.

His image as a winner at home and abroad was confirmed by his ownership of the AC Milan soccer club, current European and Italian champions.

Mr. Berlusconi, who took office in May, has come under fire from the opposition for his alleged attempts to control the media and for ongoing rows with popular anti-graft magistrates. But the budget is the issue which has most upset ordinary people.

The prime minister promised to create a million jobs as he campaigned for general elections with a "feel good" message which had Italians dreaming of a new economic miracle.

They have woken up to find Mr. Berlusconi, fighting in runoff in runaway budget deficits inherited from past governments, taking the knife to one of the world's most generous pension systems.

and heavily-mined roads," he said.

Richard Cornwell, senior analyst at the Africa Institute think-tank, said before regional states considered committing troops to Angola the question of who was going to pay would have to be resolved.

"South Africa is not in a position to, and Zimbabwe certainly can't," said Mr. Cornwell. Zambia, which has suggested sending 1,000 soldiers, was even less able to afford to send them.

Mr. Cornwell said the 8,000 troops the U.N. wanted would be too few to maintain peace in a country that nearly 20 years of war has transformed into a wasteland.

"We could find we are in a Bosnia-like situation, with a force that hasn't got the strength to stop them fighting... have no doubt, we would take casualties," he said. "There are 11 million landmines there alone."

Former invaders may turn peacekeepers in Angola

By David Tucker
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — More than four years after South Africa withdrew its last troops from Angola, the United Nations wants them back — as peacekeepers rather than invaders.

Black-ruled South Africa has problems of its own and is reluctant to get deeply mired in peacekeeping operations that will inevitably lead to casualties, political and military analysts said on Monday.

"They would not want a repeat of what happened to the Americans in Somalia," said Deon Fourie, professor of strategic studies at the University of South Africa.

"That would not be good news for the government... It would be very hesitant about sending anybody where casualties are inevitable," he told Reuters.

South Africa Deputy President Thabo Mbeki told re-

porters on his return from Luanda, where he attended Sunday's signing of an accord by the Lunda government and UNITA rebels to end 19 years of civil war in Angola, that it would be a condition of the operation that it helped Angolans rather than coaxed them.

"The priority at the moment is integration," he added, referring to the integration of thousands of former guerrillas and homeland soldiers into South Africa's new model army.

Apartheid-ruled South Africa, which supported Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels against the formerly Marxist government in Luanda throughout the 1980s, withdrew its last troops in 1989 after agreements paving the way for Namibian independence and the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola.

Many veterans of South Africa's involvement in Angola, who subsequently joined the regular army, were recruited as advisers to the

government forces and have played a key role in recent successes against UNITA rebels ahead of Sunday's accord and Tuesday's hoped-for ceasefire.

Former South African army Brigadier Bill Sass, from the Independent Institute for Defence Policy, said the United Nations needed to urgently define the role of the 8,000-strong force it reportedly wanted for Angola.

"Do they want them to reinforce the peace or to act as observers? Eight thousand men could only really act as observers and the U.N. would have to be very sure the ceasefire was going to hold before sending troops," Brig. Sass told Reuters.

"It's no good sending in lightly-armed peacekeepers when you have a semi-conventional war going on," Brig. Sass said.

"It's a very small force for a country the size of Angola, which has no infrastructure

crisis.

"It is part of a general identity crisis the nation is passing through... what we are witnessing is something akin to regression. We're going backwards at the close of the century because people are afraid of the future," he told Reuters.

Psychiatrist Ahmad Okasha criticised colleagues who took part in the forum for giving legitimacy to the faith healers and blamed the media for fanning the flames.

"Instead of paying attention to the problems of housing, inflation and economic development, the press is concerned with charlatany and treatment using demons, proving the strength of backwardness in our country."

Egypt's 'ghostbusters' at war with psychiatrists

By Mona Eltahawy
Reuter

CAIRO — A war of words has broken out between Egypt's "ghostbuster" faith healers and secular psychiatrists who dismiss a national obsession with demons as a symptom of cultural backwardness.

Ever since two young sisters beat their mother to death in August in what they called an exorcism to drive out demons known as Jinn, newspapers and magazines have had a field day following up the case.

Among questions raised: Are the two women mentally unstable or possessed? Can a Jinn fall in love with woman and prevent her from marrying? Can a Jinn make a

woman impotent?

The sisters are in a state mental hospital awaiting evaluation before prosecutors decide whether to press charges.

A weekly magazine suggested that one of them had become mentally unstable after her fiancee left her.

A crime tabloid ran a cover photo of the sisters looking suitably dishevelled and unstable with the teaser headline: "The Jinn issued an order... so we killed our mother."

The woman's death is not the first in the name of exorcism in Egypt, where age-old superstitions thrive.

The crime pages are the most popular sections of daily papers, feeding avid readers a staple diet of gory murder stories. They carry regular

reports of exorcisms gone wrong.

"We are face to face with daily crimes that are deep-seated. They are the fruits of evil that fall from the tree of superstition," wrote Adel Hammouda in the magazine Rose Al Yusif.

He blamed the popularity of faith healers on state neglect of mental institutions.

"Superstition mixes mental illness with possession and takes advantage of the similarity in symptoms and the lack of faith in psychiatry, with its high fees and the governmental neglect of its hospitals and the diffusion of its patients in the streets and the harsh treatment they receive," Mr. Hammouda wrote.

"There is no difference be-

Jordan River Designs invites you to visit their new showroom at Jabel Amman, 1st Circle. The Annual Fall Exhibition, Nov. 28 - Dec. 6, 9am - 9pm.

A Save The Children Project

Marriott gets new F&B director

The Amman Marriott Hotel is pleased to announce that Khalid Elawi has returned as the new director of food & beverage as of Nov. 24, 1994.

Mr. Elawi was the director of catering of the hotel until his transfer to the JW Marriott Hotel in Dubai in the summer of 1993. His experience has gained with that assign-



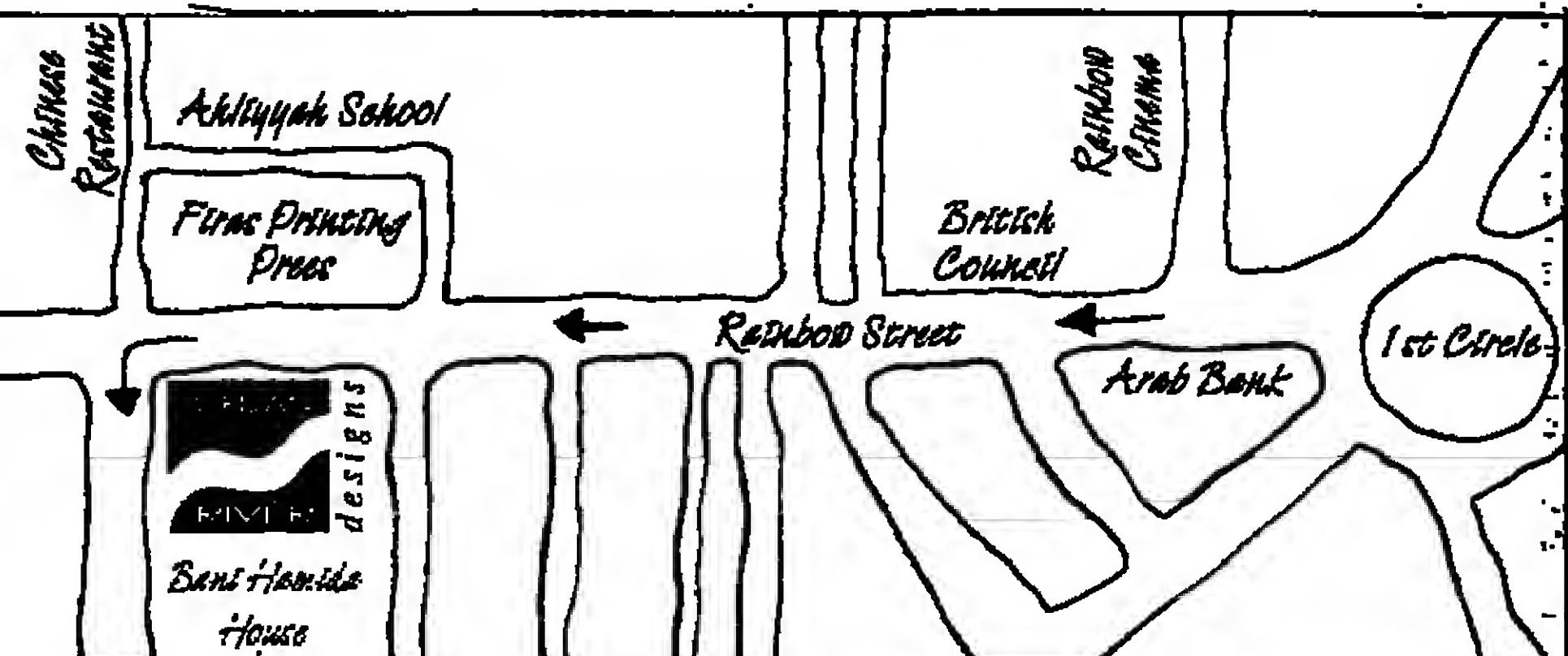
Kodak Gold 400 voted the best

KODAK GOLD 400 speed film has been voted "European colour print film of the year 1994-1995" by the prestigious European Awards Panel (EAP).

In announcing the winner, the EAP said: "The excellent all-round characteristics of ISO 400 colour print films are perfectly demonstrated in the qualities of the new Kodak Gold 400."

Its combination of speed, fine grain, superb colour reproduction and image definition make it the ideal film for a variety of lighting conditions, and especially for use in zoom compact cameras."

Peter Dinhshah, Consumer Imaging Products Manager of Kodak (Near East) Inc., said: "We are hon-



Marvelous Crown keeps Japan Cup at home again

TOKYO (R) — Marvelous Crown, ridden by (2.4 km) invitation race with 169 million yen; the country's top jockey Katsumi Minai, gave hosts Japan a narrow third straight win Sunday in the Japan Cup, the world's richest horse race.

The four-year-old gelding, starting at 9-1, edged out joint second favourite Paradise Creek (4-1) of the United States by a nose with another Japanese horse, Royce And Royce (16-1), one-and-a-quarter lengths back.

U.S. favourite Sandpit (7-2), after leading from the start of the \$4 million race until the turn into the final straight, was first overtaken and then lost all chance of winning when he was squeezed out by Paradise Creek and Royce And Royce.

Race stewards fined Pat Day on Paradise Creek and Norihiko Yokoyama on Royce And Royce, for the incident. The amount was not announced.

The pair swept up on either side of the favourite and after taking the lead moved towards each other, forcing Corey Nakatani on Sandpit to check.

Sandpit finished fifth but even without the interference the horse already seemed beaten.

It was the second year in a row that a four-year-old gelding had won the 12-furlong

"I didn't know who had won when we crossed the line," the 41-year-old Minai said.

The Japan Cup win, his first, wrapped up a vintage year for Minai. He rode Narita Brian to Japan's triple crown title, and scored his 1,300th career victory on Saturday after making his debut 22 years ago.

Marvelous Crown's trainer Makoto Osawa said the third-straight home win proved Japanese horses could compete with the best in the world.

"I think the victory proves the level of Japanese horses is not low compared with foreign countries," he said.

Day had no excuses on Paradise Creek. "It was just who was lucky on the day," he said.

Hernando (15-2) finished fourth, but fellow French raider Apple Tree (4-1) faded badly and came in last.

FIBA expand Euro championship

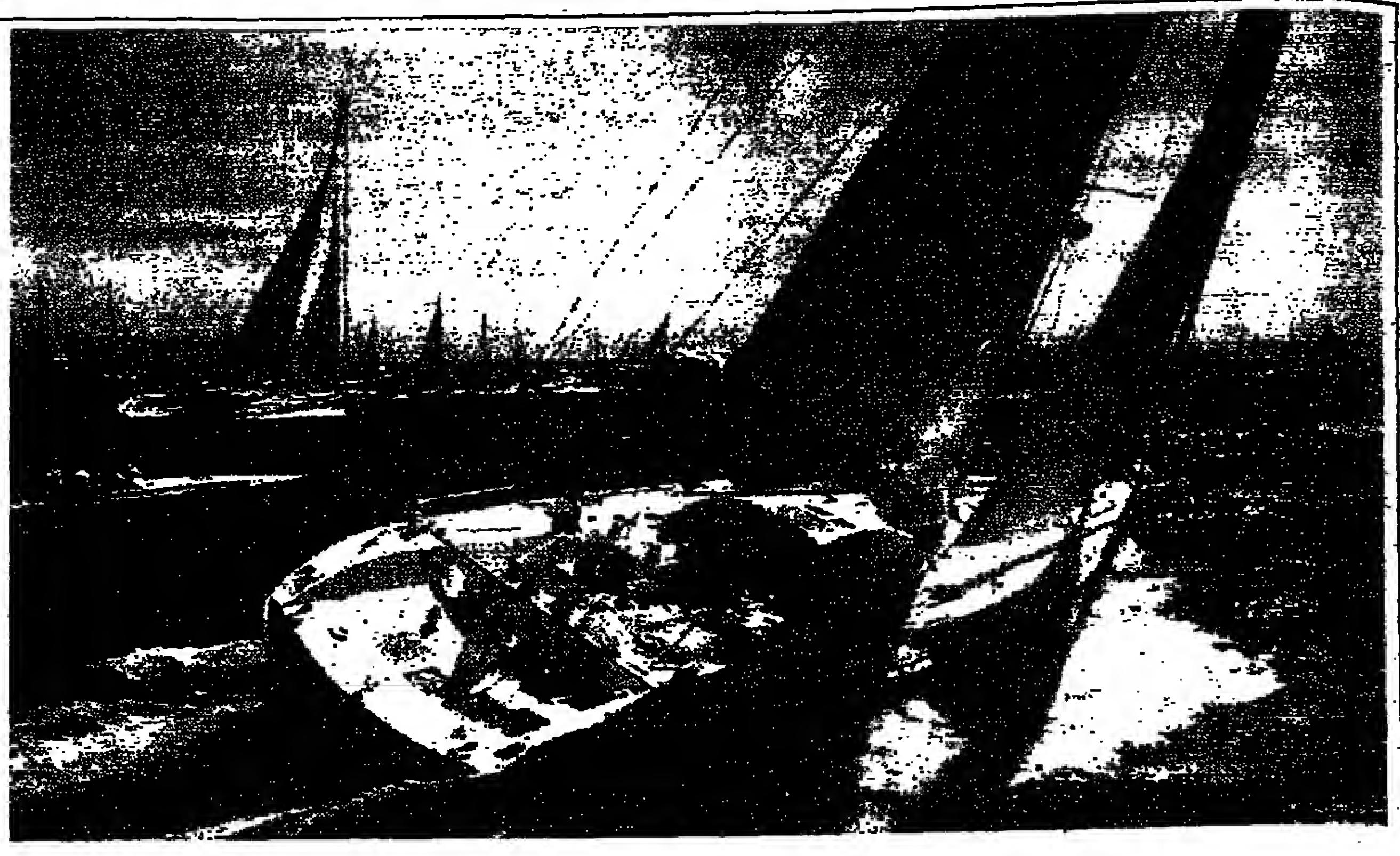
MUNICH (AP) — Yugoslavia, once a major basketball power in Europe, has been given the chance to return to international competition following the partial lifting of U.N. sanctions.

FIBA, the world governing body of basketball, decided Saturday to have another qualifying tournament for next year's European championships, accommodating Yugoslavia and give five other teams a second chance.

The remaining four teams slated for the additional qualifying tourney are Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia and Turkey.

Before Yugoslavia was broken up into several republics earlier this decade, the country won Olympic, world and European titles.

The European Championship for men will be held June 21 to July 2, 1995 in Athens.



Frenchwoman Isabelle Autissier, winner of the first leg of the Class I section of the BOC Challenge round the world single-handed yacht race, sets off at the start of the 2nd leg to Sydney (AFP photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Coach Maradona wins first match

Buenos Aires (AP) — Diego Maradona won his first match as coach Saturday, when his team Deportivo Mendiola defeated Gimnasia Jujuy 3-0 in an Argentine League game. Since Maradona took over Mendiola in early October, the team lost three games and tied four. The side risks relegation to second division. Maradona, 34, is barred from playing by a 15-month suspension for failing a drug test during the World Cup.

No lifting of ban for Gordon

LONDON (AFP) — World athletics chiefs announced Saturday that they could not lift a four-year drugs ban on former British international discus thrower Peter Gordon because they had not received essential information from the British federation. Gordon, 43, who is suffering from lymph cancer, was banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) after failing to produce a urine specimen at a meeting in London last year. The British Athletic Federation lifted the ban in November because of the unusual circumstances of the case and "with regard to Gordon's grave medical condition."

Jansher aims for 5 more years at top

Doha (AP) — Jansher Khan, the six-time world squash champion, hammered out a chilling warning to his rivals Sunday by saying he intends to remain No. 1 player for another four or five years. The Pakistani squash king, who clinched his sixth world title earlier this year and has lost just once in 1994, is confident he can keep his top ranking and achieve his major ambition of winning 10 World Open Championships. "If I can keep up my level of fitness and do the same amount of training, then I am confident that I can remain No. 1 in the world for another four to five years," said Khan, who spoke upon arrival here to defend his Qatar International title. "But if my ranking ever slips to four, five or six, then I may retire," added Khan, who was given an emotional welcome on his arrival by hundreds of Pakistani expatriate schoolchildren in this small, oil-rich Gulf state. The Qatari International, which features 19 of the world's top 20 players, carries total prize money of \$96,000, making it the second richest on the calendar behind the World Open.

Smith retains triathlon title

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Spencer Smith of Britain took the lead on the cycle leg and held off fast-finishing Austrian Brad Beven Sunday to win the men's title at the World Triathlon Championships for the

second straight year. Smith, who won last year at Manchester, England, triumphed in a time of one hour, 51 minutes, four seconds in chilly conditions, finishing 45 seconds clear of World Cup series winner Brad Beven of Australia (1:51.49). German Ralph Eggert took third place in 1:52.41 in a sprint finish from Canadian Mark Bates.

Paris St. Germain drop a point in leadership chase

PARIS (AP) — Paris Saint-Germain, who are unbeaten in the European Champions Cup league, again failed to turn on the style in the French league at the weekend when they dropped an important point in their chase of first division pacesetters Nantes. Paris St. Germain now have 35 points from 19 matches — three fewer than Nantes who have a game in hand and who play Cannes on Sunday. Lyon made no mistakes at home to Martigues with a 3-0 victory and goals from Franck Gava, Florian Maurice and Stephane Roche to move on to 33 points. And Auxerre hammered visiting Sochaux 4-0 with two goals in each half.

FC Porto stays top on goals

LISBON (AP) — FC Porto won 1-0 Saturday at home to Belenenses to stay top of the league on goal average, despite a 3-0 triumph by Lisbon rivals Sporting over Leiria. Porto's goal came from Portugal's international midfielder Carlos Secretario in the 63rd minute, giving the home side another two points for a 21-point total. Sporting's 3-0 win kept the top two neck-and-neck on points and closed the goal average on the leaders. But Porto still led with 26 goals for and five against, compared with 25-8 for Sporting. Goals came from Brazilian defender Marco Aurelio in the 23rd minute, Moroccan Nourredine Naybet in the 41st and international midfielder Luis Figo in the 75th.

Zeller-Baehler wins 1st Alpine skiing victory

PARK CITY, Utah (R) — Heidi Zeller-Baehler of Switzerland gained the first victory of her 10-year World Cup career Saturday, winning the season-opening giant slalom on the strength of a stirring second run. Zeller-Baehler recorded a total two-run time of 2 minutes 22.03 seconds to overtake first-run leader Sabina Panzanini of Switzerland, who finished with 2:22.44. Vreni Schneider of Switzerland celebrated her 30th birthday with third place at 2:23.01.

Two Cuban boxers fail drug test

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two Cuban boxers, including world amateur flyweight champion Waldemar Font, have been banned from international competition for two years because they failed an anti-doping test at the Goodwill Games in Russia, the Cuban News Agency reported Saturday. The decision by the International Amateur Boxing Association costs the Cubans two of the six gold medals they won at the competition in St. Petersburg in July. Font defeated Carlos Navarro of Los Angeles to win the gold medal at 112 pounds. Manilla defeated Choi Joon-Wook of South Korea in the 106-pound class.

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Shearer hat-trick puts Blackburn top

LONDON (AFP) — England centre-forward Alan Shearer struck a second-half hat-trick in a 4-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers to help put Blackburn on top of the Premiership and replace Manchester United, whose game at Arsenal finished goalless.

Shearer, whose haul included a penalty, now has 16 goals for the season — the same as frontline partner Chris Sutton, who began the rout with a ninth-minute opener.

Shearer's third, a 35-yarder which flashed in off the underside of the bar, left even manager Keeny Dalglish overwhelmed.

"I never scored anything as good as that," said Dalglish. "It was tremendous note on which to finish the game. It was just a terrific strike and it was nice to see Alan get a hat-trick."

To seal a miserable day for the Tynesiders Keegan also revealed that internationals Philippe Albert and Robert Lee would be sidelined for around three weeks with seven bookings but no goals.

To complete United's misery after their midweek European Champions' League defeat in Gothenburg, striker Mark Hughes was sent off after committing his second bookable offence in the 79th minute.

Manager Alex Ferguson was critical of the referee, saying: "I would like to see the video of the incident but you've got to look at the standard of refereeing today."

The referee booked Keith Gillespie after only 23 seconds and that set the pattern," he added.

Arsenal, still reeling from the Paul Merson drugs scandal earlier this week, avoided their third consecutive defeat and although they had the better of the exchanges in the disappointing encounter.

There was more joy for new Everton manager Joe Royle, whose side, 2-0 victors in Monday's Merseyside der-

Munich move up table

BONN (R) — Lothar Matthaeus, moved back to midfield from libero, landed a late penalty to give struggling champions Bayern Munich a much-needed 2-1 win over Leverkusen Saturday.

Leverkusen had the better start with Ulf Kirsten putting his side ahead 1-0 after 31 minutes but the hosts began to dominate the match after Christian Nerlinger equalised two minutes before the break.

Noel Whelan strike earned Leeds a 1-0 home win over Nottingham Forest, who have now lost four of their last five League games.

Whelan headed home Brian Deane's cross on the hour to settle a scrappy encounter as Forest failed to score for the fifth consecutive game.

An injury time strike from the edge of the box by defender Daryl Sutch gave Norwich a 2-1 victory and condemned managerless Leicester to ill-deserved defeat at Carrow Road.

Brace Grobbelaar continued his rehabilitation in the eyes of British soccer fans with a fine performance to keep another clean sheet in Southampton's goalless draw at Crystal Palace.

Grobbelaar was given a warm welcome by both sets of fans before the match, and at the final whistle, he was besieged by supporters wanting his autograph.

Wimbledon had central defender Alan Reeves sent off for slapping Paul Walsh as they went down 2-0 at Manchester City to an early goal by Garry Flitcroft and a late effort by substitute Uwe Rosler.

Officials said the 25-year-old, who transferred from Karlsruhe at the start of the season for 5.5 million marks (\$3.5 million), would be flown to the United States for an operation.

Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat landed his ninth and tenth goals of the season for Borussia Dortmund but the Bundesliga leaders only narrowly held on to the top spot with a 3-2 draw at Moenchengladbach.

Michael Zorc scored Dortmund's first goal after 10 minutes, followed eight minutes later by an equalizer from Heiko Herrlich.

Chapuisat then hit the back of the net twice before the break — in the 30th and 45th minutes — in a fast and rain-drenched match that saw the hosts repeatedly stalled by Dortmund defenders.

But after a string of predictable drives, Moenchengladbach clawed their way back to level terms through an 83rd minute goal by Swedish striker Martin Dahlin and another from Holger Fach in the final minute.

S.Africa down legendary Ghanaians

PRETORIA (AP) — A wonderful week for South African football came to a fitting end Saturday when the national team defeated Ghana 2-1 in the opening round of the four nations tournament at Loftus Versfeld stadium here.

On Friday, South Africa replaced cash-strapped Kenya as hosts of the 1996 Nations Cup final, just two years after being readmitted to the African Football Confederation.

The victory over the legendary Black Stars was tinged with luck as the home team were awarded a dubious second-half penalty after

Doctor Khumalo appeared to fall when fairly challenged. Khumalo sent goalkeeper Simon Addo the wrong way with a calmly-struck spot kick to increase a lead gained through an early headed goal from Marks Maponyane.

South Africa, lacking five unavailable European-based professionals, then survived several anxious moments after Frank Amankwah reduced the arrears with a soft long-range goal.

Ghana midfield star Abedi Pele was totally marked by Linda Buthelezi and never stamped his authority on a match watched by a small but enthusiastic crowd.

Ivory Coast overcame Cameroon by a similar score in the opening match with Charles Dago scoring the 75th minute winner by finishing off a Donald Sie cross.

Ivorian defender Jean-Marie Ghoulou was lucky to survive the 90 minutes as the South African referee cautioned him twice instead of sending him off for committing a second bookable offence.

Ghanian Osel Kuffour also should have been ordered to take an early bath, but escaped with a yellow card after deliberately handling the ball.

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Sports

Jackson scores 50 as Dallas win in OT

DENVER (R) — Jimmy Jackson caged a 50-point night by hitting a pair of foul shots with 0.5 seconds left in overtime as the Dallas Mavericks erased a 25-point deficit for a dramatic 124-123 win over the Denver Nuggets Saturday.

"It's safe to say that's my best game as a pro," Jackson said. "But it was more of a team effort. When they go up 25, we just wanted to chip away little by little. We picked up our defense and we got a great team effort."

Bryant Stith gave Denver a 123-122 lead on a 10-footer with 8.9 seconds left in OT but Jackson was fouled by Rodney Rogers, who was swarming the red-hot Jackson as part of a double-team to the left of the key.

The Nuggets had built their 25-point lead with a 127-6 run over a 7:30 span in the second quarter.

"Just a regular day at the office," said Dallas coach Dick Motta. "I told them at halftime that we were 23 points up on Portland and they came back, so I knew it could be done. We stuck with it. It was a great comeback. Jamal (Jackson) had good games tonight."

Jackson's 50 points were a career high. Mashburn added 35.

"I'm ready to go again, let's play two," said Dallas point guard Jason Kidd, who had 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists. "That was a lot of fun. When we got down in the first half, all we wanted to do was cut away at the lead."

In Phoenix, Charles Barkley scored 23 points in his first game of the season and Danny Manning added a season-high 32 as the Suns beat the San Antonio Spurs 111-108.

"Obviously, I've got to lose 10 to 12 pounds," said Barkley. "Right now, my conditioning is not very good. I'm struggling with my shot a little bit, but I don't care as long as we win."

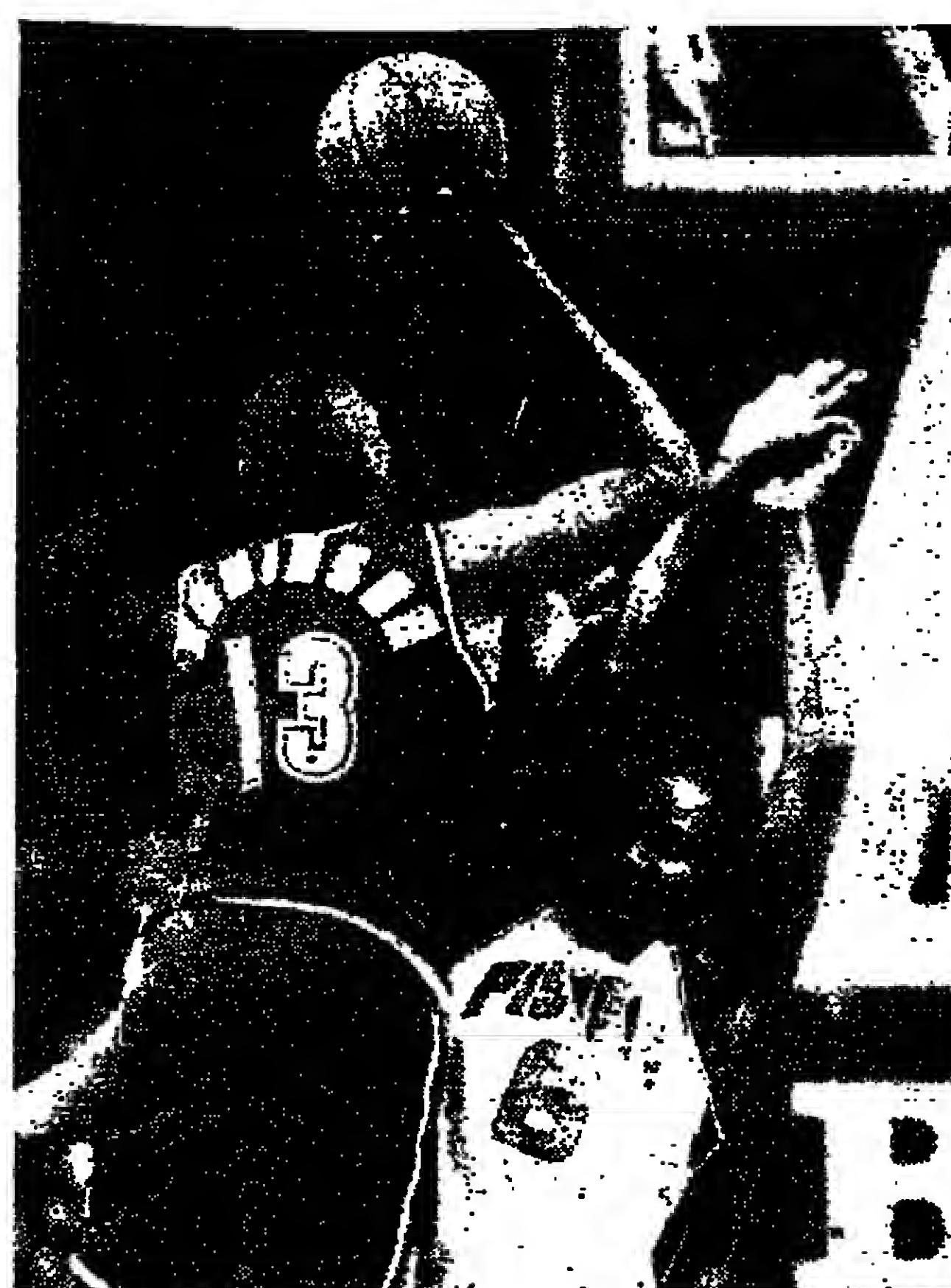
Barkley had missed the Suns' first 10 games due to an abdominal strain. The Suns put Kevin Johnson on the injured list (bruised left knee) to make room for Barkley.

David Robinson led the Spurs with 25 points.

The game also saw the first meeting between the Person brothers. Chuck scored 15 points off the bench for the Spurs, and Wesley, the Suns' first-round pick, scored just four.

In Houston, Sam Perkins scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as the Seattle SuperSonics handed the NBA champion Rockets their third straight defeat, 98-94.

Shawn Kemp scored 22 points and Gary Payton



Glenn Robinson of the Milwaukee Bucks (left) drives for the basket past the defence of Terry Mills of the Detroit Pistons in their Nov. 8 match (AP photo)

added 17, including a key jumper in the final minute, as the Sonics won for the fourth time in their last five games.

Vernon Maxwell scored 23 points and Hakeem Olajuwon added 22 points and 12 rebounds for Houston.

In New York, Alonzo Mourning scored seven of his 27 points in a decisive 16-5 fourth-quarter run as the Charlotte Hornets handed the Knicks their first home loss of the season, 105-95.

Mourning also grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked three shots.

Charlotte's Larry Johnson scored 16 of his 23 points in the second half, when he hit 7-of-8 shots from the field.

Charlotte's Tyrone Bogues suffered a strained groin in the first half and did not return. Greg Sutton filled in at point guard.

In Cleveland, Mark Price scored a season-high 31 points as the Cavaliers cruised past the Golden State Warriors 101-87.

The jump-shooting Cavs broke an NBA record by attempting just two free throws. The old record of three was set by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1980.

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Chinese women hold secret to weightlifting success

ISTANBUL (AP) — The jury is still out on how Chinese women have come to dominate the World Weightlifting Championships. But no one questions their achievements: They hold 27 of the 28 world records.

The latest record fell Saturday when China Li Dan hoisted 107.5 kilos in the 63-kilo class for the snatch event. She broke the old mark by 2 kilos en route to winning three gold medals for her team.

Li's victories gave Chinese women a clean sweep of all 18 golds in the six weight categories in which they were entered at the championships, and lifts of more than 100 kilos have become commonplace for this powerful Chinese team.

How do they do it? Theories are as abundant as weight classes, some make sense, others are unfounded and some border on the absurd. They include long-term training, accusations of steroid use and suggestions they're in some kind of mind-over-matter trance.

Chinese women have also made great strides in middle and long distance running and swimming over the past 16 months.

Rumours of possible steroid

use grew after the Chinese women dominated the weightlifting events at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, last month.

They continued last week after the International Swimming Federation said Chinese swimmer Yang Aliau had tested positive for steroids less than a month after winning a gold medal in the World Swimming Championships in Rome in September.

But Randall Strossen, attending the championships as a writer for the weightlifting magazine "Milo" in California, doesn't go for the steroid explanation.

"Steroids could enhance a weightlifter's performance by 3 or 4 per cent," Strossen says. "But what we're seeing here doesn't apply. The Chinese women are lifting 15 or 20 per cent more than the silver medalists."

U.S. Weightlifting Federation president Jim Schmitz says training has made the difference.

"These girls are chosen at an early age and spend most of their adolescent lives training at the best training complexes in China for high performance," Schmitz said.

Still others believe that the naturally large pool of athle-

tic candidates in Chinese society gives them the edge.

"There are more than one

million Chinese women

weightlifters from which they

(the Chinese team) can

choose," according to Panayota Antonopoulou, the women's 76-kilogram champion from Greece. "That's more than the rest of the world combined."

According to International

Weightlifting Federation

President Gottfried Schodl,

however, economics is the

key.

"The average person in

China lives under more diffi-

cult conditions than most of

the world, so the only way to

move up in China or travel

out of China is for that per-

son to excel in sports. This is

a powerful motivation."

Schodl added yet another

reason: "The Chinese were

pioneers in women's weight-

lifting. That means they had

a 10-year head start on the

rest of the world."

Taimazov's victory extends

to three days the success of

former Soviet competitors,

following victories from Rus-

sians Alexei Petrov and

Sergey Syrtsov in the 91 and

99 kg categories respectively.

Taimazov, who is one of

the few stars to survive in the

Ukraine team, is also the

only one to have a private

sponsor in wrestler-turned businessman Viktor Ardishev.

Ukraine, which won the men's team event in the world titles last year in Melbourne, are considerably weaker this time due to a number of problems, including coaching.

International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) officials said the entire team may not have been here at all, had the Ukrainian Weightlifting Federation not paid out a \$50,000 fine after three Ukrainians

had returned positive drug tests since July.

The money reportedly came out of the pocket of the team's sponsor and former Olympic silver medalist, Artur Akoev, was used to set up business in the United States at the end of his sporting career.

All the country's participants in the sport, from sportsmen to officials, would have been suspended for one year if the fine had not been paid after an appeal by Ukraine's Olympic committee.

All such fines may only be paid with the intervention of the country's highest sporting body. With each offence the ban period and the fine dou-

ble.

Police have also looked into the case and interviewed the goalkeeper.

Grobbelaar set to answer match-fixing charges

LONDON (R) — Bruce Grobbelaar is due this week

to present the English Football Association (F.A.) with his answers to charges relating to alleged match fixing.

The Southampton and former Liverpool star, whose 14-day period for replying is up on Wednesday, kept a second successive clean sheet on Saturday since the Sun newspaper made the allegations earlier this month.

The Southampton teammates are impressed by the way Grobbelaar has coped with the allegations. But striker Ian Dowie said it was not surprising from a man who saw action against guerrillas during his national ser-

vice for Zimbabwe.

"Bruce has seen people killed when he's been fighting in the bush in Africa, so something like this isn't going to shake him," the Northern Ireland international said.

His Southampton team-mates are impressed by the way Grobbelaar has coped with the allegations. But striker Ian Dowie said it was not surprising from a man who saw action against guerrillas during his national ser-

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH
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PLAY OR DEFEND

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♦ J 5

♦ J 9 8

♦ A 10 8 6 4

♦ A Q 9 3

EAST ♠ 10 8 7 4 3

♦ K 8 4

♦ 7 6 5 2

♦ 5

♦ J 10 7 4 ♦ K 9 6

SOUTH ♠ A K 2

♦ 7

♦ Q 9 7 3

♦ 8 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

win and return a heart and, when in with the king of diamonds, East holds no more than four hearts.

Don't give up yet. There's a line that will succeed no matter what the defenders do. Suppose at trick three you lead the queen of hearts. It makes no difference which defender wins as long as East holds no more than four spades.

You can capture ace and return, come to hand with the ace of hearts (if necessary) and run the queen of diamonds. Even if the first lead is a will-o'-the-wisp, take four diamond tricks, two hearts, two spades and the ace of clubs. (Naturally, if West wins the king of hearts and shifts to a club, you intend rising with the ace!)

Take a good look at all four hands. Do you think South, declarer at three no trump, can make nine tricks?

The auction is straightforward. With 28 high-card points in the combined hands, point-counters will tell you that you are a favorite for an overtrick. However, you have to take nine tricks before you can hope for a 10th.

You try the lack of spades to the first trick and duck when East produces the queen. You win the spade return. West sides out and plays the queen of diamonds. Even if the first lead is a will-o'-the-wisp, take four diamond tricks, two hearts, two spades and the ace of clubs. (Naturally, if West wins the king of hearts and shifts to a club, you intend rising with the ace!)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic, Jewish leaders condemn murders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Arab-Israeli Islamic leader and a rabbi condemned for murders committed in the name of their two religions in a joint statement published Sunday. "The Jewish and Muslim religions categorically forbid murder. Those who claim religion to commit crimes are therefore violating the foundations of their faith," the statement said. It was signed by Sheikh Abdul Nimer Darwiche, head of the Israeli Islamic Movement, and Rabbi Menahem Fruman from the Jewish settlement of Tekoa in the occupied West Bank. The two clerics, both from moderate wings of their faiths, have worked together for several years to try to promote Israel-Palestinian dialogue. The Israeli Islamic Movement was formed in the 1980s to represent Islamists among the 800,000 Arab Israelis.

Iraqi marsh dwellers 'poisoned'

LONDON (AFP) — British officials have found evidence that Shiite Muslims in the marshland of southern Iraq are being deliberately poisoned to eliminate opposition to the regime, the Independent on Sunday reported. "A team from the Overseas Development Administration found evidence that the marsh Arabs are being poisoned by chemicals put into their water supply by the authorities," the paper said. "I discovered symptoms of chronic long-term poisoning among many Iraqi women, young men and children," the paper quoted Mukesh Kapila, the leader of the ODA mission, as saying after examining Iraqi refugees in Iran. "I also saw scars from bullets which people said had been fired by Iraqi soldiers. There is no doubt that what is happening to the marsh Arabs in Iraq amounts to genocide," Mr. Kapila said. Mr. Kapila said the flood of Iraqi refugees into south-western Iran was "fast becoming a crisis." Tehran had invited the British delegation to visit the refugees and assess their needs.

Iran writer dies under house arrest

TEHRAN (AFP) — A liberal Iranian writer died Sunday of a heart attack while under house arrest on drug and alcohol charges, the official news agency IRNA reported. Ali Akbar Saidi Sirjani's health deteriorated in "the early hours" of Sunday and he died several hours later "despite efforts" to save his life, informed sources told IRNA. The 50-year-old writer was detained in March and then put under house arrest for allegedly keeping drugs at home and for drug and alcohol addiction. An advocate of ending Iran's political isolation, Sirjani stirred controversy five years ago when he published a letter asking President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to normalise ties with the United States. Sirjani's books are banned in Iran and he has been publishing his works abroad during the two years before his arrest.

Miz'al selected beauty king in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Miz'al was selected "beauty king" for 1994 in an area west of the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, according to a report in the daily Al Jadid. Wardi was runner up, and the third position went to Aswad. There were also beauty queens, and prizes totalled 113,000 riyals (\$30,133), in addition to a car and several sets of gold pieces, said the report. Report of beauty contests in Saudi Arabia would be bizarre enough. But perhaps even more bizarre is that the contest was for goats. The report said this was the second such annual beauty contest for "Syrian goats" at the Al Masara farms west of Riyadh and that prizes were presented by goat owners and businessmen. Syrian goats are said to be the best breed for the animal.

Mandela starts two-day Morocco visit

RABAT (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela arrived in Morocco on Sunday for a two-day visit. Officials said Mr. Mandela was expected to meet King Hassan on Monday although the nature of his visit appeared to be private. Mr. Mandela made no statement on arrival at Rabat airport where he was greeted by Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali. Details of his schedule in Morocco were not available.

Iran vows to continue fight against Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran vowed on Sunday it would keep up its hostility towards Israel until the Jewish state disappeared from the world map. "Israel will never find legitimacy and our hostilities will continue until the Zionists disappear," Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri said. "This has always been our position and we are not ashamed of saying it." He repeated Iran's rejection of the "treacherous" Middle East peace process, telling parliament it was an "effort to legitimise" Israel in the region. "All the efforts at creating a false peace will bring nothing but civil war" in the occupied lands, he warned, adding that the Palestinians had the "right to resort to all means to free their land."

Kurdish religious leader killed in Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Gunmen have shot dead a Kurdish religious leader in Erbil in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday. The agency, quoting the radio of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said Abdullah Kadri, who headed a theological college, was killed on Saturday by unidentified gunmen. Students at Kadri's college called on "the authorities of autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan to identify the guilty and punish them," IRNA added. The KDP and its principal Kurdish rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), on Thursday united under a joint leadership to prevent a recurrence of fighting between them.

Iran urges Pakistan to fight Sunni extremists

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri urged Pakistan on Sunday to fight Sunni Muslim extremists after blaming them for killing six members of a Shiite party near Islamabad. Speaking to parliament, Mr. Nateq Nuri singled out the religious extremist group, the Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), to blame for the shooting of six workers of Pakistan's main Shiite party, Tehrik Ijtemia Pakistan on Friday. Seventeen others were injured in the attack on a bus near the Pakistani capital. "These are foreign mercenaries bent on creating war between the Sunnis and the Shites," the speaker said. "We urge the government of Pakistan to severely confront them and not to give them legitimacy."

League to hold Lockerbie talks in London

CAIRO (AFP) — An Arab League official is to discuss the dispute between Libya and Western countries over the Lockerbie airplane bombing in talks in London, league officials said Sunday. Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid travelled to London from Cairo on Sunday to give a lecture on Arab-British relations. A league official said he would take the opportunity during his six-day trip to raise the issue of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed, with British officials.

Impotency drug has lasting effect

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli undergoing treatment for impotency was admitted in hospital after a serum he injected at home produced a 36-hour erection, a doctor said on Sunday. Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid travelled to London from Cairo on Sunday to give a lecture on Arab-British relations. A league official said he would take the opportunity during his six-day trip to raise the issue of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed, with British officials.



NO TAKEAWAY: Monkeys feast on their noodles, fried rice, salad, soup and fruits. The Chinese lunch Sunday during an annual monkey banquet is meant to enhance human monkey party at a Buddhist shrine, home to love for animals and promote tourism (AFP some 500 monkeys, in Lopburi province, 150 photo) kilometeres from Bangkok. The menu features

Senator defers to Helms but defends peace process

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is settled that arch-conservative Jesse Helms will head the Senate Foreign Relations Committee but he had better watch his tongue, a fellow Republican committee member says.

"He has to realise that as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee... (his) thoughts are taken into account around the world in a way that are weighed and talked about," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum.

Ms. Kassebaum, a Republican moderate from Kansas, said she regarded as "case closed" the furor over Mr. Helms' remark last week that President Bill Clinton was unfit to be commander-in-chief of the U.S. military.

Initially, she herself "didn't feel that President Clinton was comfortable in his role as commander-in-chief... but I think, as President Clinton has gone on, he has gained a stronger relationship with the military and in foreign policy," Ms. Kassebaum said on CNN.

"And no matter whether you agree or disagree with the president on one issue or another, there is a respect for the office that I think is important."

A Democratic congressman from Mr. Helms' state, North Carolina, disputed the senator's remark last week that Mr. Clinton was so unpopular with the military he would need bodyguards to venture into the state.

For Bragg and Camp Lejeune in my district are very respectful of their commander-in-chief," Rep. Charlie Rose said on CNN Saturday. "They may not always agree with him, but they know he's the boss."

Israel hopes to sell satellite to Arabs

YEHUD (AFP) — Israel on Sunday launched a promotional drive to sell to Arab countries the services of its first communications satellite which will go into orbit in November 1995.

The Amos-1 satellite will cover most of the Middle East. It will be used mainly to beam television pictures, said Shlomo Tirosh, director of the Israeli company Spacecom responsible for the satellite's operation.

"The advantage of satellites is that they recognise no borders. In the case of Amos-1, it will be practically impossible to block the reception of images," Mr. Tirosh told a press conference here.

The satellite, with a range of 750,000 square kilometres, will cover "a large part of the Middle East, notably part of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, Syria and Lebanon," he said.

It will be put into orbit at an altitude of 36,000 kilometres. Mr. Tirosh told the press conference at the headquarters of Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) north of Tel Aviv, which has overall charge of the project.

To receive programmes, clients will need only a small satellite dish less than a metre across.

"We are not only aiming at Israel's five million inhabitants, but the 200 to 250 million clients across the region," said Amitsur Rosenfeld, Amos project director.

Mr. Rosenfeld said contacts had already been made with Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian, especially during a recent international meeting at Dubai on the use of space.

Amos-1 will also provide a telephone link, transmit computer information and serve as an instrument for long-distance learning.

Israel launched two experimental satellites, Ofek-1 and -2, with its own launchers in 1988 and 1990.

Saddam in charge of Iraqi diplomacy

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has taken personal charge of Iraq's foreign policy, according to a newspaper article on Sunday signed by his eldest son.

"The leader (Saddam) is now assuming in a direct manner the responsibility of the subject of Iraqi diplomacy," said Iraq's most influential newspaper, Babel, in the front-page article by President Saddam's son Uday, who owns the paper.

Babel did not say when the Iraqi president started running foreign policy, but said

"changes at the U.N. Security Council" on how to deal with Iraq sanctions were due

to the way President Saddam was steering diplomacy. The

sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which

was repulsed in 1991 by a U.S.-led force.

The paper repeatedly criticised Iraq's foreign policy in

the past. It said it did not help

Iraq to gain anything from

the United Nations in return

for the scrapping of Iraq's

weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq met a key condition in

Gulf war ceasefire terms on

October 10 with a decree

recognising Kuwait within its

U.N.-demarcated borders,

leading to expectations of an

imminent easing of sanctions.

Iraqi diplomacy was previously in the hands of Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

State-run newspapers re-

ported on Sunday that Mr.

Aziz had briefed President

Saddam and members of the

ruling Revolutionary Com-

munist Council (RCC) on the

outcome of his latest mission to

the U.N. in New York to

lobby for an easing or lifting of the embargo.

The Security Council has

ruled out any easing until

Baghdad complies with all

1991 Gulf war-related resolu-

tions.

Babel said President Sad-

dam succeeded in causing

"divisions in the Security

Council" and bringing about

"a change in the language of

the (council's) latest state-

ment."

The Security Council wel-

comed Iraq's recognition of

Kuwait as an important step,

but stopped short of giving a

pledge or timetable on when

sanctions will be eased.

Babel said the president

"opened direct dialogue with

the Russians via a hot line

between Baghdad and Mos-

cow" and was the man who

"led the political battle with

the West" by massing troops

close to the Kuwaiti border in

October "to propel Iraq's

case into international lime-

light."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, in a surprise

visit to Baghdad last month,

succeeded in persuading Iraqi

leaders to formally recognise

Kuwait within the new U.N.-

drawn borders in return at the

Security Council.

The RCC, in a statement

carried by the official press,

said recent steps taken by

Iraq "were bound to open the

path for the lifting of the

unfair embargo on Iraq." It

did not elaborate.

The statement lashed out

at what it called U.S. insis-

tence on keeping the sanctio-

nats intact.

Iraq on Sunday also re-

jected accusations in a U.N.

report of serious human

rights abuses and launched a

stinging attack on its author.

Analysts differ on how the

queen might react.

Lord Robert Blake, an

acknowledged constitutional

expert, wrote last week: "It is

surely inconceivable that the

sovereign would refuse a dis-

solution with the queen."

And he added: "If Mr.

Major has secured the

queen's permission to bully

the parliament, then the queen

has committed the gravest